

THE



SPRINGBOK

1977

**THE SPRINGBOK
THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL
OF
THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS**



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LIEUTENANT COLONEL C. MILNER, CD
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C. Milner
Lieutenant-Colonel
36th Commanding Officer
The Royal Canadian Dragoons

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

I wish to take this opportunity to send my personal greetings together with those of all ranks currently serving with the Regiment to Dragoons everywhere, both serving and retired. This edition of the Springbok, I feel, maintains its aim in keeping all of you up-to-date with the activities of the Regiment and its members.

As you know, I took command of our Regiment from Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Dangerfield mid-way through the year and as such a good portion of this edition covers the activities during his tenure.

As for my part, Colonel Jack's departing words that «time sure flies when you're having fun» certainly has held true. In spite of it, however, the Regiment has accomplished much. Again during the fall exercise period, Dragoons acquitted themselves in the manner to be expected of them. The Centurions, nearing the end of a quarter century of service with the Regiment, performed admirably, due primarily to the great care (and affection) given them by their crews and mechanics. Early in 1977 we will formally and fittingly retire them and declare ourselves ready with Leopard. However, before that can be done we have much to do. The Leopard is a different breed of cat and, although much of our expertise is transferable, we have a great deal to learn, to see what makes it purr.

The labour of love has already begun. Our officer and senior NCO instructors, together with the technicians, have attended courses with the Bundeswehr, prepared our own course packages and, at time of writing, are busily teaching gunnery, driving and maintenance, communications and crew commanders skills to the rest of us.

I am extremely pleased with their efforts and the efforts of the whole Regiment in making this conversion a successful one. We are also receiving excellent co-operation and support from the units and staff of 4 CMBG, CFE and NDHQ — in particular our Corps Director, Colonel Jim Fox, and his staff. Everyone is behind us in our endeavours. But enough of Leopard. The next edition of Springbok will tell it all.

We were most pleased to have our affiliation with the GGHGs formally approved in October. The affiliation will undoubtedly be beneficial to both Regiments and we look forward to the development of a professionally rewarding relationship. Our ties to the homeland and the place of our Regimental birth have been strengthened immeasurably. The affiliation completes the three-way affiliation with our British Regiment, The Blues and Royals, with whom we continue to pursue exchanges whenever time permits.

In addition we continue to have exchanges with our other partnership units, the 5/68th Armor Battalion (USA), 12eme Régiment de Cuirassiers (France), and 293 Panzer Bataillon (Germany).

A word about our Association. The visit of the Association President, Mr. Syd Williams, was a highlight of our Leliefontein celebrations and it is with pride and pleasure that we in the Regiment see our Association grow and prosper under his stewardship.

In closing I am proud and pleased to report that the Regiment is in fine shape, blessed with good soldiers and good equipment, and a job to do. The future looks bright indeed!

C. Milner
Lieutenant-Colonel
36th Commanding Officer
The Royal Canadian Dragoons



Colonel M.H. Bateman, CD
Colonel
The Royal Canadian Dragoons

**MESSAGE
FROM
THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT**

The confirmation that the Regiment will shortly be receiving Leopard Tanks is the best possible news. It not only means that we will have one of the finest AFV's in the world but also that we have won a resounding victory over those who would have us believe that the tank is no longer a valid instrument of war. Most of us who fought in them and know their value and how they can dominate a battlefield realize a new tank could be the only answer to the long debate. Those responsible should receive our warmest congratulations for their foresight and common sense decision.

You will by now have heard that our affiliation with the Governor-General Horse Guards is an accomplished fact. Each Regiment must now avail itself of the many opportunities this special and precedent setting relationship will bring. Our ability to assist in armoured training, when flyovers are authorized, is one of the more obvious and tangible opportunities that will arise. Hopefully too, the affiliation will facilitate, and be the catalyst, in setting up attachments. At other times, when the occasion permits, it may encourage a variety of social activities. But in particular, I feel sure that the affiliation, if it is not allowed to lapse, but rather is nurtured at every opportunity, will develop an enduring bond that will strengthen and enrich both Units.

I hope the coming year will be a prosperous and happy one for all ranks.

**M.H. Bateman
Colonel of the Regiment**

GREETINGS FROM THE CITY OF LAHR

In this new issue of the Regimental Yearbook of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, «The Springbok,» I would like to convey friendly greetings of the City of Lahr to the members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families living here. Next year a whole decade will have passed since the first Canadian troops arrived in Lahr, and during that time have gotten to know our home and its people while at the same time, I hope, have had some pleasant impressions and experiences. Many personal friendships have been the result, over and above political and language difficulties, not the least of which is a living partnership between Lahr and Belleville, Ontario. To those of you who are now serving here, I wish a most pleasurable stay in the city coupled with friendly contact with its citizens. May the harmonic co-existence of people of different nations and languages prosper further in Lahr. With sincere thanks to those who nourish these good relations I wish to relate the best wishes for the new year 1977 to all our Canadian citizens.

Lahr, December 1976

Dr. Philipp Brucker
Oberbuergermeister

**MESSAGE
FROM
THE PRESIDENT, THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS ASSOCIATION**

To all Members and Former Members of
The Royal Canadian Dragoons

It gives me great pleasure to write this message to all members of The Royal Canadian Dragoons, wherever they may be stationed, and to the members of The Royal Canadian Dragoons Association. May 1977 bring you all your fondest wishes and may your most pleasant dreams come true.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank my good wife and every member of the regiment for giving me one of the most wonderful weeks of my life. They made it possible for me to attend, and actively participate in, the 1976 Leliefontein celebrations in Lahr.

Over the years the Dragoons have never changed. Considerable changes have been made in equipment and dress, but the same spirit is still there. First and foremost, we were and are CANADIAN SOLDIERS and only we know how it feels to be known as a Canadian Soldier. I am certain that all the serving and retired members are proud to make the statement, «I belong to The Royal Canadian Dragoons; the only Canadian Regiment that wears a foreign animal as its cap badge; the only Canadian regiment that has won three Victoria Crosses in one day; and the only old Permanent Force regiment that has an affiliation with the senior Militia regiment, the Governor General's Horse Guards.» That is something to be proud of – OUR REGIMENT!

I am very pleased to report that the Association is steadily growing and our membership is nearing 600. We have had a very good response from former RCD members and I sincerely hope that serving members of the Regiment will contact us upon their discharge and continue their relationship with the Regiment. Even if they are transferred to another Regiment, they are still eligible to join the Association.

At our last Directors meeting held in Ottawa, we were pleased to have had LCol Milner and CWO Bennett in attendance. With their help we accomplished a lot of things that needed to be done and tightened the bonds between us. If everything goes according to plan, some Association members will be joining the Regiment for the Leliefontein celebrations in 1977.

C.J. Williams (Syd)
President
The Royal Canadian Dragoons Association
P.O. Box 9474
Terminal Post Office
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 3V2



Signing out.



Signing in.

CHANGE OF COMMAND '76

LCol Jack Dangerfield took the salute for the last time as we said good-bye to our 35th commanding officer. LCol Clive Milner, the new CO, comes from the directorate of land requirements, but his most recent assignment was chief of staff, headquarters UN Disengagement Observer Force in the Middle East.

LCol Dangerfield has been posted to the Canadian Forces Staff College in Toronto to become a part of their directing staff. During the week, the regiment bade a fond farewell to LCol Dangerfield and his family with parties, dances and other get togethers.

Combined with the change of command parade was a partnership ceremony between The Royal Canadian Dragoons and 293 Panzer Bataillon. This was a formalization of a close relationship we have shared through the exchange of personnel on gun camps and exercises. This partnership will undoubtedly be reinforced with our acquisition of the Leopard.

The 17th/21st Lancers Regimental Band, under the direction of Bandmaster WO1 P.D. Conibear, again provided the excellent music for the parade and many of the festivities.



LCol Milner accepts Guidon from Col Bateman.

THE ECKHARDT MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The Eckhardt Memorial Plaque is awarded annually to the best all-around Junior NCO of the Regiment. All Master Corporals and Corporals in the unit are considered by the selection committee under a strict set of criteria and the winner is presented his award during the Leliefontein celebrations.

The plaque was donated by the Sergeant's Mess in 1952 to honour the memory of L/Cpl R.S. Eckhardt. L/Cpl Eckhardt was a section leader in the Assault Troop of C Squadron. During a route march in Sicily in 1943 a sudden explosion killed 2 officers, 5 troopers and wounded 27 others. L/Cpl Eckhardt, although severely wounded and burned, was the only NCO left in the troop. He sent a runner back to Squadron Headquarters and despite his own injuries he did all that was possible to treat the other wounded. He then ran approximately 3 miles to the nearest First Aid Station for help. Although admitted to hospital L/Cpl Eckhardt died eight days later. For his outstanding courage and devotion to duty L/Cpl Eckhardt was awarded the British Empire Medal posthumously.

The Memorial Plaque is presented annually so that the NCO's of the Regiment can remember the deeds and the devotion to duty of L/Cpl Eckhardt.



MCPL COPPLESTONE receives the Eckhardt Memorial Plaque from **MGen Withers**, Comd CFE.

LEOPARD

By Capt H.W. Mohr

The October announcement by the Department of National Defence to purchase 128 German-built Leopard C1 battle tanks confirmed Canada's support for the requirement of a tank on the modern battlefield. The new tank will be the Canadian version of the LEOPARD A3, a battletank which is at present the most common battle tank used by Germany and other NATO members. Delivery of this tank will commence in July 1978 and will be completed by August 1979.

In conjunction with the purchase agreement, the German Ministry of Defence agreed to lease 35 Leopard tanks to the Canadian Forces in Europe to provide an immediate improved operational capability to that force. These tanks will be the LEOPARD A2, which is similar to the A3 version, but has a cast turret instead of the welded turret of the A3, and include 32 battle tanks, 2 ARVs and 1 bridge-layer. They will be used by the RCD, commencing in January 1977, until the unit has been issued its final LEOPARD C1 in 1979.

LEOPARD A2

The LEOPARD A2 has a V-10 multi-fuel engine that delivers 830 brake horsepower at 2200 r.p.m. Because of its reduced weight (combat weight is approximately 40 metric tons) the tank has an approximate power to weight ratio of 20 HP per ton. This characteristic gives the tank a high degree of mobility, with a maximum speed forward of 65 km/h, and a maximum reverse speed at 24 km/h. Its capability to climb steep grades, traverse slopes and cross ditches is comparable to the CENTURION. The seven road wheels per side, of which the front three and the rear two have independent shock absorbers, give a smooth ride which allows for optimum crew comfort even on very rough terrain. The four speed planetary shift hydraulic torque converter, the hydraulically controlled steering transmission, and the power brakes provide that sportscar feel that not only makes the LEOPARD easy, but also safe, to drive.

The LEOPARD A2 armour is not as thick as the CENTURION armour, a sacrifice which was necessary to provide the high degree of mobility. The turret compartment is also much smaller and therefore the size of crew members becomes a realistic concern. The LEOPARD A3 armour has been improved and consists of welded steel plate. The A3 model is easily recognized by the noticeable change in the turret shape. The interior of the crew compartment however is equally small as the LEOPARD A2. This not only restricts the amount of crew comfort, but also limits the stowage space for personal equipment.

The LEOPARD A2 armament consists of the 105mm gun, a co-axial machine gun (German MG3), an anti-aircraft machine gun which can be mounted on either the crew commander's or loader's side, 8 smoke grenade dischargers, and the personal weapons of the crew. The main armament is fully stabilized and hydraulically controlled. The hydraulic controls require no warm-up time and both traversing and elevating controls are combined in a single gunner's control unit. Hand traverse and elevation are still provided as a back-up. The crew commander can also override with power elevation, traverse and firing.

The big challenge within the new tank is the optical equipment. The gunner has two aiming devices — a stereoscopic/coincidence rangefinder and a gunner's telescopic sight. The rangefinder can only be used for firing APDS and HEAT ammunition, while the telescopic sight provides a range scale for all ammunition except SMOKE. Also, only the telescopic sight is stabilized with the main armament. The coincidence principle of the rangefinder requires all prospective gunners to have good visual depth perception, and also necessitates much training to master accurate range estimation.

The crew commander is equipped with a panoramic telescope that has a zoom capability from X6 to X20. A measuring frame is incorporated in the sight picture and can be used for range estimation of targets of known size. The panoramic telescope is mechanically slaved to the stabilized main armament to allow the crew commander to maintain the same sight picture as the gun.

The crew commander's cupola and driver's hatch are both mounted with removable episcopes which allow the additional mounting of an IR or II sight. Practical usage has shown the II sight to be more effective, although its capability is greatly reduced by bright active sources. The gunner has no IR or II night-vision capability.

The communications equipment within the loan tanks is the German family of radios. The SEM 25 and SEM 35 are radios comparable to our A and B sets respectively.

TRAINING

Training within the unit commenced in Nov 76 with the participation of 20 personnel in instructor's conversion courses at the German Armoured School in Munster near Hohn. Initially the progress was slow due to the requirement for continuous translation. However, the technical expertise of our own instructors provided the background required to close the communication gap and all candidates returned to the unit by mid-December, having mastered the information necessary to commence unit Leopard instruction.

Our own courses commenced in mid-January. Trades courses were conducted in both gunnery and D&M, and familiarization courses were conducted on the German radios. A certain amount of cross-training was obviously required since loaders needed to be familiar with the new machine guns, hull and turret hydraulics, and ammunition stowage. Crew commanders had to be trained and input was required from all three traditional crewman trades to ensure that each crew commander could adequately supervise his crew. Drivers needed to know how to operate the gun controls to properly conduct their own maintenance.

A quick analysis of the challenge immediately points out the problems which had to be overcome to ensure a successful completion of the courses and a well-qualified product. In order to continue to meet the operational requirements within the brigade, it was necessary to qualify at least 32 personnel for each crew position. In order to allow for possible course failures, injuries, sickness, and compassionate problems requiring a return to Canada during operational periods, the number of candidates had to be increased to 40. On the D&M courses, the number of candidates included 8 field engineers for AVLB operation.

The most critical factor was time. With the annual gun camp commencing on the 28th of February and the delivery of the first ten tanks not being complete until the 15th of January, the six weeks in between had to be juggled to accommodate a four-week gunnery course, two three-week D&M courses, a two-week crew commander's course, and two one-week communications courses. In addition crew maintenance was still required on the CENTURION tanks to ensure the operational readiness of the unit.

The second obvious problem was the lack of training aids, which included a shortage of tanks, and the lack of reference material printed in the English language. Both these factors meant much extra preparation time on the part of the instructors, and detailed planning to ensure the optimum distribution of available equipments.

Needless to say, the problems turned into minor frustrations and eventually were overcome. The end product has not yet been tested, but gun camp is not too far away. After gun camp, the unit will train for the Canadian Army Trophy Competition.

CONCLUSION

Canada, and in particular the RCD, has now become a member of the LEOPARD club. The LEOPARD A2 to some may not seem a worthwhile replacement for our CENTURION, which we have held together with hose clamps, gun tape and love for the past few years. What we must remember, is that this tank is only a stepping stone, and when we receive our own LEOPARD C1 with its integrated fire-control system and laser rangefinder we will then have one of the best tanks in the world.

LEOPARD AND CENTURION

	CENTURION MK 11	LEOPARD A2
Combat Weight	56 Tons	42.4 Tons
Ground Pressure	.90 kgm/cm ²	.86 kgm/cm ²
Power to Weight Ratio	13 BHP/Ton	19.6 BHP/Ton
Bridge Classification	60 Tons	44 Tons
Length (Gun at 12 o'clock)	9.83 m	9.54 m
Height (Hatch closed)	2.94 m	2.62 m
Width	3.38 m	3.37 m
Ground Clearance	0.508 m	0.46 m
Max Road Speed	34.6 km/h	65 km/h
Verticle Obstacle	.91 m	1.15 m
Maximum Gradient	66%	60%
Trench Crossing	3.35 m	3.0 m
Shallow Fording	1.45 m	1.2 m
Deep Fording	Special Kit Required	2.25 and 4.0 m *
Range-Cross Country	52.30 km	
Range-Road	100.58 km	approx 450 km **
Fuel Capacity	545.5 litres	985 litres

* The 4.0 m fording requires a special airshaft which in the German system is carried in the tank. Preparation time is about 10 min.

** Range includes 1/3 cross country and 2/3 road operation.





Patch up time.



Recce Tp fall 76.

NIJMEGEN 76

By Capt T.J. Tanguay

The Nijmegen team began practising very early this year under the able leadership of Team Captain, Major Daryl Dean. By mid-March, the team was taking off to the Black Forest Hills three times a week for healthy jaunts averaging 15 to 20 km. In so doing, the leg muscles were strengthened for the long knee-pounding marches that began in June. Training from the start was with rucksacks (22 lb lead) and the distances increased from 15 to 50 km in the Rhine Valley plain, simulating the type of conditions found at Nijmegen. Although the team began with a strength of approximately 38 volunteers, the combined result of medical casualties, courses, postings and weakened will, eventually whittled down the team to 13 hardy specimens.

The team participated in three preparatory marches prior to Nijmegen. The first was a 30 km march in the Black Forest on 24 April and sponsored by the 12 Cuirassiers. The second was also 30 km and called the Black Watch Marches at Hoogetveen, Holland and took place on 15 May. The 14 team members that were able to go not only found the march a personal challenge but also discovered first hand what real Dutch hospitality is all about. The third more gruelling test for the team was the 100 km Ypres International March in Belgium from 28 to 30 May. The route covered 35 km per day over some of the roughest country imaginable. Weary feet stomped on everything from hot pavement to crushed shale to forest tracks and even wound their way through historic World War I trenches. Upon return to Lahr Capt Bob Meating tried unsuccessfully to get a new pair of feet issued by the QM.

Next came the long, hot marches in the Rhine Valley outside Lahr in preparation for the actual Nijmegen marches. As it turned out, the month of June was the hottest for the past 50 years with the temperature burning around 95-100 degree F. Frozen jerry cans of water, brought by the team administrator, «Sheriff Strogal», provided welcome relief at the rest stops. By July, however, the team was confident it could handle anything and headed off for Nijmegen by bus on 18 July.

A tent city was erected by the supporting unit, 3 Mechanized Commando, at Camp Humensoord. Routine was quickly established giving most members a chance to spend some Dutch guilders on the famous Heineken beer. Moderation was self imposed however, because the team would march 40 to 45 km per day for the next four days.

Many friendships were made with teams from other nations and casual rivalries built up along the route with favourite songs being exchanged. Some still had energy for a march into town in the evenings while others just soaked their feet in buckets of cold water, had dinner and went to bed. Four o'clock in the morning comes awfully early. But an early start avoids the afternoon heat.

On the third day the team stopped to pay respects at the Canadian War Cemetery at Groesbeek where 2334 Canadians are buried. Friday, the final day, saw clear, sunny skies over the team as they marched passed over half a million spectators lining the route, shouting encouragement and frequently giving team members water, milk, chocolates or bunches of flowers. The feeling of accomplishment and pride in oneself and one's country at such a time cannot be adequately described in words.

Two men, in particular, merit special mention. Firstly, Cpl Ron Rossetti, the team MA for his expert advice and special care when draining blisters. However, nowhere in the medical books does it state that he should smile when applying «Friars Balsam». Secondly, Cpl «Groovy» Kean who boosted morale with his happy face and continuous supply of soft drinks and Canadian beer.

Throughout the four days of marching, at one point or another all team members wondered what could possibly motivate an individual to voluntarily undergo such masochistic torture. But, when the end was reached and the war stories began with the first cold beer, the reason was clear. But that reason will not be told here – you will have to find out for yourself by joining the team next year!

TEAM MEMBERS:

Maj. Dean D.M.
Capt. Tanguay T.J.
Sgt. Logan C.A.
Sgt. Strogal J.E.
MCpl. Beebe F.K.
Cpl. Slaught B.L.
Cpl. Gibson T.J.
Cpl. Rowe F.
Cpl. Ward B.S.
Cpl. Wardrobe H.W.
Tpr. Jewett R.W.
Tpr. Malcom M.D.
Tpr. Yakimenko G.R.
Cpl. Rossetti R.R. (MA)



The happy gang.



Alright! Who stole my gloves.



Not bad for the first go.

GUNNERY 1976

By Capt T.J. Tanguay

The gunnery training of the 1976 gunnery year began with an IG refresher course in November. The course was organized by WO Cady and Sgt Lynk from the Combat Arms School. This enabled all the Regimental IG's to become current and standardized prior to the upcoming unit courses and Regimental gun camp. The first chance to practice what they had learned came in December with a refresher course designed to prepare prospective PL 6A students for the onslaught at CAS. This was quickly followed up by a tank crew commanders course during the first week of January which got everyone «on net» and thinking gunnery. The last and most important gunnery course this year was the TSQ 011.05 course to qualify new tank gunners. Although the original course loading was for 20 students, 16 crewmen successfully completed the theoretical and practical portions. The course package and timetable were drawn up by the Regimental Gunnery Warrant Officer, «Suds» Sutherland.

Meanwhile, each tank squadron was busily conducting refresher training for all crews. The introduction of two laser FMR bays in a «frisbee» shelter greatly assisted miniature range training. The lasers proved to be dependable and provided shorter crew change around times and more versatility than using the 22 cal FMR. Each tank squadrons' efforts were tested by the Regimental Gunnery Officer, Captain Tex Tanguay, in the form of AFV inspections and performance checks on the 7.62mm coaxial machine gun and the .50 inch heavy machine gun. The results formed part of the Regimental gunnery competition. C Squadron was just as busy gearing up for the gun camp, particularly during the last two weeks before departure. Two separate one week refresher courses were conducted emphasizing weapons handling, point checks, IA's and stoppages. Being all prepared, the Regiment headed for the railhead. The flat car loading went smoothly except for a minor incident for which Lt John Russell received remedial flat car loading until repeat.

In previous years there has been two gun camps within the yearly training cycle. This year, the entire Regiment deployed to Hohne Ranges from 2 to 20 February for a three week annual gun camp. Each sabre squadrons' firing timetable and ammunition allocation was based on a 10 day programme. Additional activities such as Exercise Flashpot, driver training, IMR/FMR practice and the qualification of HQ Squadron and SHQ personnel on the GPMG occupied the bulk of the third week. Some even found time for a rec run to Hamburg or the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

During the first week the 16 student gunners were qualified with B Squadron providing the administrative back up. Trooper Biener won top honours on the course. The week culminated by night firing with 105mm illumination ably fired by the 49th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, stationed in Hohne Camp. The climax of the week, however, occurred when a tank gun barrel was blown apart. No names mentioned!

Both tank squadrons' firing programme commenced with static shooting techniques and progressed to more advanced practices including stabilizer runs, battle runs, closed down shooting in NBC state 3, and troop shooting. The night battle runs with searchlight, mortar and 155mm illumination demonstrated the high standard of gunnery achieved during the three weeks of intensive training. C Squadron had a similar firing programme. Crew drills were ironed out and gun handling showed continuous improvement. The standard of Lynx gunnery progressed steadily to a respectable high level during the patrol competition. Sgt Matty Matheson and MCpl Tom Copplestone won the recce patrol trophy for the best patrol in pre-fire checks, stowage and battle runs.

The tank squadron battle run competition stressed the proper application of standard gunnery techniques and troop drills. The preparation of crews and range organization was excellent. Each troop was subjected to a series of targets at various ranges over three separate bounds. The Challenge Cup for the best crew in PO checks and battle runs went to the crew of C/S 23A commanded by MCpl McLeish with gunner Cpl Ward, loader Cpl Carpenter and driver Cpl Porter. The Turner Trophy for the best troop in PO checks and battle runs went to C/S 12 commanded by Capt John Russell (in a borrowed tank) with crew commanders WO Russ Berry, MCpl Stan Stanley and MCpl Jim Nemeth. The Purdy Trophy for the best squadron in PO checks and AFV inspections went to B Squadron for the third year straight. The Rams Head Trophy for the best squadron in PO checks, AFV inspections and battle runs also went to B Squadron.

Although this was the only gun camp in 1976, spirits were kept high by the announcement of the Leopard purchase. At the time of writing this article, Regimental IG's are on Leopard conversion courses and everyone is looking forward to the next gun camp. Not only will it be qualifying on a new battle tank but also practice for CAT 77.

REFORGER 76

By Capt J.H. Russell

Exercise «LARE'S TEAM» as Reforger 76 was called, 7-17 Sep, saw 4 CMBG deployed as enemy (RED FORCE) against American flyover forces made up basically of air assault troops, the «BIG RED ONE». For the RCD it was the last Reforger in which the «CENTURION» took an active part. As the tank trains moved from Lahr for seven weeks field duty, many new faces could be seen from the passenger cars. Not only had we received a number of militia personnel to augment the saber squadrons (RHQ received a RECCE TP COMPLETE) but there had been numerous inter squadron postings.

At 23:45 hrs on the seventh, C Sqn the last train to leave Lahr, moved out in the direction of BAVARIA to join the remainder of the Regiment.

All were happy to see that no tanks went «TURTLE» while loading, no ammo misplaced or vehicle burned during the road and rail move. What happened during this exercise period is better told by those who lived through it, the fighting squadron.

B Squadron was first to reach the concentration area in preparation for LARES TEAM. The place was familiar as signs for KALIMUNZ began to appear. Major Dave Graham, who arrived just a few weeks prior, was spending most of his time teaching Capt Herm Hirschfeld how to speak Canadian again, to prepare him for command of the half-squadron working with 3 Mech Cdo. (Sgt Dennis Arsenault alias the B.H. still hasn't recovered from the 21/C's voice procedure). Little happened in the concentration area other than getting shoulder holsters, (too small) and at times the odd point in battle procedure.

For A Squadron it was very much the same as last year (SALY). They too concentrated near Kallmünz with a new OC, Major Roger Acreman. Meanwhile, the 21/C Capt Harry «WOLFGANG» MOHR had his hands full trying to teach the french connection how to make coffee! The next day battle procedure started for A Sqn with attachments increasing as H-Hour approached.

C Sqn by this time had managed to take over the small town of Krachenhausen and prepared to deploy as soon as Major Daryl Dean returned from ORDERS.

C Sqn stayed in their town for twenty-four hours, said good-bye to ROSIE and deployed 38 hours ahead of the BDE to establish a screen along HWY 8. At last light the 10th Sep, all three troops from C/S3 were deployed, ready to strike out in an attempt to reach their first objectives, the bridges along the Donau-Main Canal. One hour ahead of the Battle Groups, Capt ERIC BORYLO was first to contact the enemy. Too bad no one could hear him! Finally through relay procedures, OC C Sqn received the info he wanted to send to higher.

A & B Sqns were now moving to their respective bridge heads with A Sqn involved in the first TANK battle. It was a night engagement against SHERIDANS at point blank range! Damage was heavy but after the short delay, A Sqn reached their target crossed the DONAU-MAIN Canal at first light and continued their push towards the RCD objective at DENKENDORF along HWY E6. It was on that second night that SGT VICTOR HARVIE broke-down, for what was it, one or three days? Things were happening so fast during this period, that time had no meaning.

B Sqn too had its share of action and problems in its' advance. First Troop B Sqn under command of Capt MIKE APPLETON rushed unopposed to cross the DONAU-MAIN Canal in the southern flank after convincing the UMPIRE (LT R.K. SMITH) that the bridge was still intact. It was at this crossing that good old «SUN FLOWER 52» came in support, or thought he was! The objective «EXILE» was seized at last light 11 Sep where the advance halted until the morning of 12 Sep.

Once across E6 (the NURNBERG-MUNCHEN autobahn) both squadrons split-up sending two troops each to 3 MECH CDO and 1 R22eR. It was that day that COBRAS made their stand. Movement became slower with combat teams staying closer and closer to woodlines. By last light, the Regiment had advanced the shortest distance of any one day, ten thousand meters.

Again the three squadrons carried out night advances. C Sqn was out front, busy reporting where the enemy was withdrawing by trailing behind tracked vehicles, and were able to discover and disrupt a second line repair hide.

It was this night that Two Troop with the R22eR attacked M60's without their Tp Ldrs or 21/C and returned in time for another attack. Once this had been sorted out, the advance continued until total withdrawal the morning of the 13th.

The tanks basically adopted blocking positions as they withdrew while C Sqn kept busy hitting COBRAS on the ground. Within the next 24 hours, all squadrons were extremely tired and wet but still able to deliver good strong attacks. During the last twelve hours of this exercise, we even had a rose bush attack Capt B.J. FORSYTH.

As the exercise came to a close, a full retreat was in progress under heavy enemy pressure.

At cease fire, we were informed that we had «LOST» but had fought bravely. We all were happy to see that no serious injuries occurred to our men and began our long road move back to HOHENFELS where more unit and sub-unit training was to be carried out.

Reforger 77 here we come!

HOHENFELS

By Lt D.B. McKinnon

«Hohenfels». The name soon came to mean a sense of uneasiness to the newcomers of The Royal Canadian Dragoons. Tales were told of barracks miles long, all buildings the same, so that if you didn't know your barrack number, you were lost. The buildings were occupied by killers, 7 feet tall and fresh from wars. They hang out in areas that were out of bounds because the MPs could not patrol them. But after a couple of weeks of Reforger, anything was an improvement. So the Regiment packed itself up and moved to Albertshof Camp, in the Hohenfels Training Area. It was found that Headquarters Squadron had been busy preparing accommodations that everyone found superior to last year.

The first week of training meant different things for different people. C Squadron removed themselves from the rest of the Regiment. It set up its Headquarters in the town of Falkenstein, and its three scout troops tried to outdo each other in search of the best gasthofs and shower facilities in the surrounding villages. At the same time A and B Squadrons were trying to get out of the vehicle compound in Hohenfels camp. A Squadron toured a museum, then practiced for Major Acreman's infamous crew tests. This was followed by troop training that flowed into Combat Team operations.

B Squadron decided that, after Reforger, it was time to get back to Armour basics. Therefore, it concentrated on troop and Squadron training, building up to a Squadron exercise that emphasized defensive operations. At the end of this week, C Squadron returned to Hohenfels and were given the opportunity to enjoy some beer, pizza and hard earned rest.

The first week merged quickly into the second as the fast training pace was maintained throughout. The pace was hard on equipment and as a result there were a lot of vehicle casualties.

A Squadron was involved in a squadron level exercise against the traitorous Third Troop. The two day exercise ended with five and a half hours of State Three, culminating in an attack that completely destroyed that band of rogues.

B Squadron's rolling stock used this week to practice Combat Team operations with the 3 Mech Cdo, finishing with their Combat Team tests. The Squadron also completed their mile and a half Physical Fitness test during this week.

Meanwhile, C Squadron again removed themselves to their own retreat, somewhere in the RMA and conducted troop training. This training included working with the helicopters and pilots of 444 Tactical Helicopter Squadron. The Regimental officers managed to make their annual pilgrimage to the fine old city of Regensburg. As in past years, a good time was had by all.

The third week saw the pace of training increase with both A and B Squadrons being totally involved in Battle Group exercises. The first was the Royal Canadian Dragoons Battle Group exercise, which concentrated on defensive operations. Elements of C Squadron acted as the enemy, and their escapades with paint cans will be remembered by all. Meanwhile, the remainder of C Squadron was back at base camp doing repairs, maintenance, small arms firing, gas chamber practices and visits to see Soviet equipment. B Squadron capped off the Hohenfels training period with a bang by having the Senior NCOs and officers complete demolition training by exploding small charges with the help of the Sappers.

Next on the agenda were the battalion Battle Group exercises, again fully involving both A and B Squadrons with C Squadron using this time for squadron, repair and maintenance.

The 3 Mech Cdo exercise was mainly defensive in nature. It included the occupation of forward Battle Positions in the fog, a long withdrawal back to do a final defensive battle in the Hohenfels training area.

1 R22eR's Battle Group Exercise concentrated on the Advance, culminating in an armoured attack by three troops in line.

Hohenfels was a busy time, but it was a welcome return to civilization after two weeks of Reforger.

EXERCISE DONAU SAFARI

By Lt P.S. Furnell

On 8 Oct 76 the RCD happily left Hohenfels to take part in the last exercise in the fall training period. Exercise Donau Safari, was 4 CMBG's contribution to our training. Planned and paid for by 4 CMBG, Exercise Donau Safari was designed to test the capabilities of the Brigade in the defence. Centered around an area approximately 20 kilometers west of Regensburg, the Brigade plus a battalion of American Infantry faced a force made up of units from the German and American forces.

On 9 Oct the Regiment was complete in a leaguer near Frasching. While putting on the normal show for the local German populace, each Squadron readied itself for what was hopefully to be the last exercise with the Centurion tank. After a night in town for most of the Regiment, the exercise got under way the next day when the Squadrons left for their assigned positions. A and B Squadrons went into their normal grouping with half of each Squadron going to 1 R22eR and 3 Mech Cdo respectively. C Squadron moved ahead of the Brigade to provide early warning.

The remainder of the Regiment moved into hides near Falkenstein. The OC's of A and B Squadrons, accompanied by their troop leaders were informed at the CO's O Group that night that The RCD task would be to provide a counter attack and counterpenetration force for two of the three battle-groups in front of our position. The troop leaders also found out just exactly what the IO does.

The next day, Oct 11, found the same group of officers plus the CO and his cast in two APC's moving forward to recce the various battle positions and routes necessary to carry out the Regiment's tasks. The CO's APC, with heads poking out every corner, must have been the largest section in the Brigade. Throughout the Brigade area similar preparations were going on, including digging of positions by the infantry.

The night of Oct 11 saw the first push of the enemy which no doubt kept both C Squadron and the four attached troops busy, but it did not disturb the RCD Battle Group. Oct 12 saw more enemy action which caused C Squadron to withdraw to the rear and our Battle Group to move forward to battle positions near Oberzell. A Squadron supported by a platoon from 1 R22eR and B Squadron by a company of Americans blindly searched for the enemy through the thickest fog of the entire exercise period. With the lifting of the fog, and pressure on all sides from the enemy, the entire Brigade was withdrawn to secondary positions around Falkenstein. The night of Oct 12 was also very eventful with the entire Brigade again moving, this time through the imaginary German Brigade behind us to positions approximately 20 kilometers to the rear. A Squadron, bored with just a straight move, tried to liven things up by having a fire on one of their tanks in the middle of Falkenstein.

The 13 Oct found the Regiment in hides near the town of Gossensdorf. B Squadron was reformed with its two troops returning from the 3 Mech Cdo. The rest of the day was spent in hides wondering exactly what had happened and when the exercise was going to be over. That night the questions were answered when orders for an advance the next day were passed.

H-Hour came at first light on the 14 Oct. B Squadron complete, moved out of its hide to start the advance. Leading the entire Brigade they contacted the enemy just west of Falkenstein. A Squadron, hoping to outflank the enemy did an «alamand left» and immediately ran into difficulties with jack-knifed semi-trailers and bogged tanks. The enemy started to withdraw with B Squadron close at their heels. A Squadron still vainly trying to outflank the enemy, moved north to come around to their right flank. The enemy was again contacted near Schillerstweisen and B Squadron deployed into positions to allow the 3 Mech Cdo to take over the lead. A Squadron moved slightly north of the town in the confusion, still searching for the elusive enemy. It was here that the ceasefire was called to end the last exercise of a long training period. Squadrons were hastily reformed and the Regiment then moved into a leaguer near Regensburg.

Exercise Donau Safari proved to be an interesting, worthwhile exercise. Once again the Regiment proved itself and all Dragoons went about their tasks in a professional and competent manner. Our only misgiving was the fact that the Centurion was on her last exercise. True to the end she remained a beast — a likeable beast, but a beast nonetheless.



I told Sgt Walker not to play under there.



The Regiment at rest after Reforger.



Preparing to dismount.



*Lt McKay rolls by
in review.*

*The VC ground. View of Leliefontein from
the north along the Belfast-Carolina road. It
was on this ground that the Turner/Cockburn/
Holland actions took place.*



*MGen Withers
takes the salute.*



Leliefontein 76

By Capt C. Watson

The first week of November, 1976, saw The Regiment celebrate the 76th Anniversary of the Engagement at Leliefontein. This battle was fought in South Africa on 7th November, 1900, and involved The RCD in a campaign of savage fighting. Though The Regiment suffered heavy casualties, the gallant action of our soldiers were recognized by 14 decorations or notices, including 3 Victoria Crosses.

Distinguished members of The Regiment and guests from far and wide helped in the week-long activities. Most appreciated was the visit of Mr. Syd Williams, President of The RCD Association. The celebrations were centered around The All-Ranks Dance in the Centennial Club and Mess Dinners in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. Thursday 4th November, was the Regimental Sports Competition and the final results showed C Squadron winning by a handy margin. The final event of the Sports Afternoon was the presentation of the awards of the day and of the sports events of the year by Mr. Williams.

As in most years, the finale was the formal Regimental Parade, which took place on Saturday, 6th November. The parade was an extensive one including the trooping of the Guidon and a memorial service, followed by a roll past by all the Regiment's armoured vehicles and a tank feu-de-joie. This year's Reviewing Officer was Major-General Ramsey Withers; The Commander of Canadian Forces Europe, who served with the Regiment as Signals Officer from 1957 to 1960. MGen Withers also presented the Leliefontein awards to the best Corporal; Master-Corporal; and Sergeant in the Armoured Corps. This year's recipients were MCpl J.V. Rice of B Sqn, The RCD; Sgt R.J. Round of The 8th Canadian Hussars in Petawawa; and WO L.D. Nichols of A Sqn, The RCD.

The Eckhardt Memorial Plaque for the best all-round Jr NCO of the Regiment was presented by Mr. Syd Williams. This Year's recipient was MCpl T.R. Copplestone of C Sqn, who also received the Leliefontein award which is coupled with The Eckhardt Memorial Plaque.

A surprise presentation was made by WO1 P.D. Conibear, Band Master of the 17th/21st Lancers Band, which provided the music throughout the week and during the parade. LCol Clive Milner accepted the Fanfare, composed by Mr. Conibear. The Fanfare, called The Royal Canadian Dragoons, was played during the General Salute of the Parade.

The afternoon activities and all official functions of Leliefontein ended when All Ranks of the Regiment and guests of the Parade moved to the inside part of the hangar situated in the North Marguerite to participate in a Post-Parade Reception.

FANFARE – «ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS»



Composed for Leliefontein 1976
by P.D. Conibear
Bandmaster 17th/21st Lancers

This fanfare was composed for and first played at the Leliefontein Celebrations in 1976. It was composed by WOIP.D. Conibear who has been present at our past three Leliefontein Celebrations in his position of Bandmaster of the 17th/21st Lancers' Band. This fanfare shall henceforth be used as the official RCD fanfare for all visiting dignitaries.

ADVENTURE TRAINING TO LEEUWARDEN 11-16 APR 76

By Lt J.D. Artibise

On 31st anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands, Third Troop, A Squadron, undertook to re-live the advance of The Royal Canadian Dragoons during that operation.

On the first day out, the troop, using jeeps, travelled to Arnhem arriving just in time to set up camp. The next morning the troop completed a side trip through the streets of Arnhem to the bridge that was made famous by the British 1st Airborne Division in Sep 44. Then to get down to the real reason for the trip, that same afternoon and the next morning the troop retraced the advance of B, C & D Squadrons as well as driving through the area where A Squadron had been deployed as a flank guard throughout April, 1945.

Arriving at Dokkum (a town liberated by B Sqn) at 1300 hours on 13 Apr 76 the troop was welcomed by the Burgemeester, Dr J.P. Meidima, a number of the town's aldermen and respected citizens, including the widow of the local Dutch resistance leader, Mr. Peter Oberman. After completing a tour of the town hall, which dates from the 1600's, the troop was taken on a walking tour of the town. The town is completely surrounded by canals which were a defensive moat in its early history. During this tour, the troop laid a wreath at the town memorial commemorating those who had died fighting for freedom during World War II.

The next day, after a 20 km march along the North Sea dyke, the troop attended a reception at the Leeuwarden City Hall. The City Hall had been the Prince of Friesland's palace up to the 1800's. The Burgemeester, Mr. J.S. Brandsma welcomed us by describing how he remembered the liberation and the Regiment's CO, LCol R.D. Londell.

On Liberation Day, 15 Apr 76, the city was put in a festive mood with numerous flags flying from shops and office buildings. At 0855 hrs the Deputy Burgemeester, Mr. J. tenBrug, presented The RCD flag to the troop. The flag party, under command of Sgt M.W. Tower, raised the flag at 0900 hrs. Following a reception in the mayor's office, the troop was taken to the Dutch Air Force Base for a quick tour and lunch. During the afternoon the troop laid a wreath at the Leeuwarden memorial with the help of Mr. De Vries, a Fresian underground leader during the past war.

Mrs. Jannetje Velt-Jeffen, the «liberation girl» was very kind in inviting the troop to visit her home that afternoon as well. Jannetje was born during the city's liberation, hence the name «liberation girl»! She appreciated the flowers presented to her by the Regiment very much.

That evening after a tour of the Netherlands largest ceramics museum and the neighbouring village of Franeker, the troop was hosted by the city for an excellent farewell supper at the Oranje Hotel. After thanking the city very much and presenting them with an RCD Plaque to commemorate the visit, the troop said their goodbyes.

Driving back to Lahr on the 16th, the troop was in good spirits because we had met many people, made friends and covered both beautiful and militarily interesting ground. Again, the ties between The Royal Canadian Dragoons and the City of Leeuwarden had been strengthened. The hospitality of the citizens of Leeuwarden was so enjoyable that many of the troop have returned or are planning to visit the area again on their holidays.

A SQUADRON

MWO O.J. Whyte

With the help of all A Sqn

«Big Alfa» Sqn has just completed a very busy year of training which started off with gun camp in Feb and ended with the Bde Comd's Inspection on 3 Dec.

«A» Sqn participated in a three week gun camp during the past year, the second half of the camp included a Regimental gunnery competition in which our 2 Troop won best troop and a «well done» is in order for all 2 Troop crews for a good effort. Well done also to WO Leo Sutherland and fellow instructors for turning out so many first class gunners for the Regiment. Just prior to the gun camp Capt Roger Sashaw joined the Sqn to become LO and Capt Harry Mohr became Sqn 21C.

June saw a further change in the head shack when MWO «Moon» Whyte came to A Sqn to replace MWO Jerry Cluett who took over as SSM HQ Sqn and in July the sqn had a Change of Command Parade as Maj Roger Acreman came to head the «team» and replaced Maj Bob Caldwell who went back to the land of ice and snow (CAS). Then came the troop changes and more troop changes, one of the troopers stated when the latest changes were announced prior to the Sqn leaving for Munsingen, «Jesus, has the old man got two sets of darts in his office».

Munsingen saw the «New» troops and crews start to work together and set the pace for the fall ex-period. Olympic Village (A Sqn's tent city) was generally enjoyed by all and a few even enjoyed getting up at 0545 hrs for PT. (Those few are now receiving treatment by the head shrink). It appears that he has given up on case number Tango 19er or better known to us followers as Combat Boots Acreman. On the serious side of Munsingen we were lucky to have two excellent cooks, Sgt Fred Connell and Cpl «Chicken» Patrick who turned out some real gastronomical delights (that means good grub you plugs). Our iron monsters were put through their paces with many new drivers who did very well and when the tanks did break down our trusty Maint Troop under WO Ron Annala was very quick to get them rolling again.

There was no rest for the tank troops upon our return to Lahr as 1 R22eR decided they required tank/infantry training and off went our sabre rattling tank troops in APCs to practice combat team operations. This period was also used for Reforger 76 preparation which made life pretty hectic and many of the Sqn wives and girlfriends were really pleased when their men gave them the joyful tidings as the girls were expecting the men to be home for about three weeks between Munsingen and Reforger. There was no reported divorces, etc, so the Sqn soldiers must have used their silver tongues to keep the peace again.

During the summer rotation A Sqn gained some new troopers; Overink, Matthews, Brady, Wright, Jordan, Blouin, Bergeron, Tailleux, Gelsinger, Owens. Welcome fellows. So you see all in all not too many changes, but too soon September rolled around and away went the Sqn again on the fall ex period the first of which was Reforger. Cpl Karl Galas was hard pressed by several German farmers to explain in German why those big panzer wagons happened to be ripping up hayfields or hiding behind a barn when there was good roads to go on. «Cool Hand Luke», MCpl Mike MacKinnon, and the crew from 13C very ably handled an irate axe swinging farmer. Everyone lost weight the first two days of the ex, not from choice, there just wasn't any rations to be issued. The Sierra Sierra Mousetrap could be heard answering critics with, «What's the matter with you guys, do you expect to eat every day?»

In true Reforger tradition there was lots of go-go-go and no sleep. The tanks rolled along real well and the few breakdowns that did occur were quickly fixed by the Maint Troop led by Sgt Marcel Cliche.

Hohenfels came next and boy was it ever nice to have showers again and wear clean clothes, it was almost like being home (only the fraus were missing). The crews quickly adjusted from being highly trained troops fighting off hordes of 101st Airborne troops to being just plain plugs going through troop and sqn training. Just as boredom was about to set in we got the word to «pickup» and off the Sqn rolled to prepare for Ex Donau Safari (4 CMBG Ex) which was the last ex for our Centurions. The old ladies did very well throughout the long hard fall period and a lot of the oldtimers were looking pretty glum when the tanks were offloaded at Lahr. — the last go on the old «agwags».

Alfa Sqn had another change in the head shack in November when Capt Vaughn Guy came to replace Capt Harry Mohr who will be heading up the «Dragoons» conversion from Centurions to Leopards. Also happening at the present time (Nov) is troop training time (goofing off), adventure training (visiting gastoffs), escape and evasion (hiding from the SSM), and catching up on annual leave (which is a combination of goofing off, visiting gastoffs and hiding from the SSM).

And so dear subscriber to the Springbok all ranks A Sqn bid you «Auf Wieder Sehn». The year 1977 with Leopard looks particularly good and we greet it with keen anticipation.

RESOLUTIONS FOR «77»

1. The OC solemnly promises not to run over any more farm machinery (Nobody believed your story about going into Mexican Overdrive).
2. Sgt Vic Harvey and Cpl Brian Dymond are not going to gain weight next time they go on a diet.
3. Tpr Doug Thompson is going to get rid of his teddy bear.
4. Capt Russell is not going to put his tank on its back anymore to check the road wheels.
5. MCpl John Roby and his Samson band will replace the Beatles.
6. Cpl Bill Whiting is going to turn down his remuster to postal clerk and become a tank driver.
7. Tpr 98lbs Jordan promises not to pick on the little guys when he becomes Regimental beach bully.



LGen Ilseman inspects A Sqn.

B SQUADRON

By Lt W.R. Allen

1976 proved to be a very eventful year for B Squadron. It is impossible to relate all the exciting events which occurred and I ask the indulgence of those personnel who feel slighted because they are left out. The following is an offhand account and any resemblance to real occurrences and actual people is just plain luck.

The year started out with the crews trying to repair the ravages done to the tanks during a D & M course run by the «other» squadron, and getting ready for Gun Camp at Hohne. We also welcomed Maj Daryl Dean as our new OC. He replaced Maj Gerry MacLean who decided it was time to go back to school. This hectic period also saw the arrival of Lt Mark Hutchings from the LdSH(RC) and Lt Al Bolster from the 8CH. These were our two attachposted troop leaders from Canada and took over 3rd & 4th troops respectively.

B Sqn started out Gun Camp with a bang. The PL 5 gunnery course proved conclusively that the Gun, 105 mm Tank L7A1, is not a muzzle loader and one should not attempt to make it one. Fortunately, other than a few bruised egos, one 3/4 Ton and one tank barrel, there were no serious injuries. The incident was put down to a good training experience and the Squadron carried on. Special mention must be made to WO Fred Bitter and his «tent eye». He's always thinking of the men. It must also be noted that B Sqn won every gunnery trophy except best troop, which went to C/S 12. As A Sqn once said, we had to let them have one so as to keep peace in the North Marg!

The return from Hohne saw us doing some quick maintenance and then right into TOETs for our annual classification at Heuberg. What more can I say, other than it was the same as last year. One notable occurrence was the attempt by a C Sqn saboteur to beat up WO «Willie» in the grenade pit by hitting him in the chest with a hand holding an armed grenade. Fortunately said saboteur managed to get rid of the grenade down range and all was well. Somebody later suggested he be employed as butt party but it never came off.

During this period B Squadron also embarked on a very ambitious PT program led by Maj Dean's formidable hand-to-hand combat program. His only problem was he kept running out of volunteers for demonstrations.

The next item on our training calendar was the ATI, and every one pitched in to help. Did I really see sunray call sign 22 in a pair of coveralls down at the hangarettes? First troop was awarded the best prepared troop in the Squadron.

April also saw the formation and practicing of the pentathlon team consisting of Lt Mark Hutchings, Sgt Brian Schiratti, MCpl Al Murdoch and Tpr Dave Biener. What more can be said than they made good their prediction of last year (read the previous Springbok) and came in first. To you fellows «Well done» from all of us.

After the ATI was completed we moved into IS training. There were both classroom lectures on weapons and tactics, and practical periods where we put our new found knowledge to use. Those nefarious saboteurs, SSM White and SSM Cluett, were foiled at every turn and the two riots, one at the Centre Marg and one at the rail head, were quickly suppressed with a «minimum» amount of force employed.

During this period we said goodbye to Capt Gray Sangster, our 21C who went to the greener pastures of HQ CFE, and also Lts Hutchings and Bolster who decided they had had enough and wanted to go home. Lt Bill Allen was posted from A Sqn to take over the duties of troop leader of 4th Troop.

Our next big event was the change of command parade on 8 July. We bid farewell to LCol Jack Dangerfield and welcome to LCol Clive Milner. After a very hectic week of saying goodbye we started back to work to get the vehicles ready for training in the Munsingen area. By this time I guess Maj Dean decided he had had enough of tanks so he went to C Sqn and we welcomed Major Dave Graham, who came to us from HQ FMC. Our big question to him was, «Where did you get that neat fuzzy beret?»

Munsingen was a very enjoyable two weeks where we practiced crew, troop, squadron and combat team training. A special vote of thanks must go to SSM Ron Marriott and his crew for setting up an excellent camp. The cooking done by MCpl Simon McLean under the watchful eye of Sgt Leo Turpin was nothing short of excellent. One exception to this was a breakfast where the two of them looked a lot like Sgt Dort and Sgt Ritchie. It must have been a dirty can or something I had the night before.

On return, we finally met our long awaited 21C, Capt Herm Hirschfeld. Also arriving was Lt Dennis Moore from the 8CH on a six month attached posting. He took over 3rd Troop. Alas, nothing lasts forever and lo and behold Capt Eric Borylo (yes, he finally got promoted) decided to follow Maj Dean's tracks and ended up in C Sqn.

With personnel squared away, we settled down for a quick two weeks preparation before we left for Reforger 76. This year we were enemy force and every one looked forward to deployment with anticipation. Second and Fourth Troops were attached out to 3 Mech Cdo under command Capt Hirschfeld and at 0001 hrs 11 Sept we crossed the start line and the battle began. Two days later Lt Bruce McKinnon finally showed up to assume duties of troop leader of Second Troop. Ever wonder what it is like to slip into the middle of a war — ask Bruce. The more memorable occurrences of Reforger have to be the road move at night in the fog when the OC «led», and of course our constant fight for fuel from 3 Mech. Cease fire came on 17 Sep and then the Squadron moved down to Hohenfels camp for a few days rest and maintenance and then into the Hohenfels training period.

C/S 21 must not have been taking any chances this year, especially after making it through Munsingen and Reforger with no «Mexicans». He stayed broken down for most of Hohenfels. One of the more exciting times during the exercise period occurred at the end of each day, when you watched the OC's face while he received his vehicle state.

Hohenfels itself was a time to polish up the troop and squadron drills. We ended the period with a Regimental and then a Combat Team exercise, where once again we won.

The Brigade FTX, or EX DONAU SAFARI, capped off our fall training period. It was a defensive battle where we were able to really practice our battle procedure. I am sure no one will ever forget our memorable regrouping on the last day at «Confusion Corner» in the village of Schillersweisin. I never thought you could put so many vehicles coming from so many directions into such a small area.

A special thanks must be made to Sgt Doug Norton and his boys who, despite our best efforts to make B Sqn the first sqn with 100% casualties, kept us running, sometimes with hope and a lot of wire. Honorable mention should be made to WO Ritchie (yes, he got promoted too) and Sgt Dort, both of whom made it through a whole exercise.

The return to Lahr saw us immediately begin preparation for our annual celebration of the Battle of Leliefontein. Everyone worked hard and the vehicles and men were ready on time.

We then settled into a «routine» and began preparing our vehicles and selves for the Commander's inspection. Capt Vaughn Guy decided he didn't like riding around in a dozer so he went to A Sqn as the 21C. To complete the year, Capt Mike Appleton (yes, he too was promoted) ascended to the chair of Assistant Asjutant. Rumor has it that because he kept breaking so many tanks they decided to put him in a safe place.

The Squadron was also involved in adventure training which enabled the troops to get away for a short time and have some fun together.

The year ended on a restful note with everyone getting ready for the hectic training schedule starting in January with the arrival of our new Leopard tanks.



CO presents Ram's Head Trophy to OC B.

C SQUADRON

Greetings and salutations from all the folks in Charles Sqn. It's that time of the year again when the officers «volunteer» one of the troops to write the Springbok article. The directions were very detailed and clear; «Shakespeare, I want you to do the squadron article. Not too long, not too short, same as last year (SALY), use lots of names. And yes! — I need it tomorrow.»

So, here goes. It appears that we have successfully come through another year, and as I look back on all the changes, I know how. We Cpls and Tprs who never go anywhere provide the stability, while the Sgts move in and out about every two years and the Offrs — well they are here today and gone tomorrow. A quick summary shows that four of five offrs left, and that eight or nine Sr NCOs left or briefly passed through. And it seems that the complete gang of workers is still here. And life goes on.

Maj Darrell Dean, CD, 2NM, BB* took over the squadron just prior to fall exercises from Maj Clive Addy, who was sent to purgatory (\$10 word for a Cpl) in HQ Sqn. Capt Ross McKenzie left the LO's chair to Lt Al Doucet, who quickly passed it on to Capt Eric «Skeeters» Borylo, who came from second troop after coming from B Sqn for the fall exercises — still with me? McKenzie went to CAS and Doucet to AO HQ Sqn. From the troops, Capt Rick Dill got married and posted to HQ 4CMBG and Capt John Russell now leads the French Connection troop. Sgt (Now WO) Ziggie Stach turned over his troop to Capt Brian Forsyth. Second troop saw two troop leaders pass through — Doucet and Borylo were ably replaced by Sgt Mattie Matheson. As last year, the one offr who stuck with us was Capt Bob Meating, the Battle Capt/2IC.

Now for the startling changes. The career mangler finally blew (with C4) some Sr NCOs out of the squadron. We were beginning to think that SSM «Snowflake» MacAdams, «Twee Two Brabbo» Sgt Billy Nolte and WO Ziggie Stach would be blessed upon us forever. But MacAdams burned everything in his office and moved to Gagetown. He left his successor MWO John Makuch, all sorts of things to sort out (canteen debts, Sr NCOs Rest Area - commonly called The Old Folks Home, beer bottles, etc., etc.). We wish Leroy well and I'm sure that we will not soon forget him — he made sure of that. Nolte and Stach, who were old Recce sweats of long standing, departed before fall exercises to tank squadrons and are now deeply involved in teaching the tankers all about Leopard. Should be no problem for those two. Who else went in 76? Sgt (now WO) Tooner Martin was posted to A Sqn as a Blowpipe operator (not likely for stubthumb). MCpl «Eckhardt» Bierhorst was promoted and taken away to be a panzer commander. SHQ went through no less than two Ops WOs in 76, Flannery and Lafontaine. «Mother» went to RHQ as Ops MWO and Leo is being posted to Chilliwack at Christmas. MCpl Moon Mullins is doing the WO's job until WO Horgan arrives after the Feb 77 Gun Camp. And last among the Sr NCOs, but only in size was Sgt Robby Burns of our Maint Section. He begged to be posted to HQ Sqn and that's where he be now.

THE WORKERS. I could not possibly hope to remember all the moves, but when MacAdams went to Gagetown he made sure that he'd have lots of protection. He took MCpl «Pig Features» Draper and Cpl «Wop» Marchioni with him. Louie Labelle, MCpls Lockyer and Jacobs also departed during the summer. Labelle to CAS, Lockyer to Calgary and Jacobs to Cornwallis Recruit School for further training.

I'll now quickly tell you how we spent 1976. January saw a good number of us go to the Brigade Ski School in Feldberg. February had us in pre-gun camp preparations, followed by two weeks in Hohne. In March the Sr NCOs conducted Hueberg small arms annual classifications. This was followed by a two week Recce crew commander's course. April put us out in the field with B flight 444 for two weeks of troop and squadron training. The squadron complete took IS training in May, which ended with a two day IS exercise. In June the squadron set up Ohr Park for the Brigade fast water swim camp, following which we swam and sunned for a week. For two weeks of July we were back in the RMA on troop and squadron training. August was spent training the militia Recce troop (flyover) for RHQ and preparing for Exercise Reforger. Reforger, Hohenfels and Exercise Donau Safari ate up September and with no breaks, we returned home mid October. In November, we celebrated Leliefontein as did every other RCD with a «low key» effort. I sure want to see it when we go BIG. From then to year's end we have been involved in the normal garrison routines (i.e. parades, vehicle inspections, more parades, snowballs, still more parades and courses.

* CD, 2NM, BB = CF decoration, 2 X Nijmegen Marches, Black Belt Judo.

THE HIGHLIGHTS in C Sqn in 1976. From an unofficial poll conducted around the squadron, there is no doubt which happening rated first. «No. 1: 32B TAKES THE PERFECT CAMOUFLAGED OP POSITION.» – And you won't believe this! Sgt Rick Kearney, with a full 16 years service, put his Lynx in a German's backyard cesspool during the July RMA training. The Newf orphan had it in the pit, right up to the towing eyes. And yes Mr. Editor, the cesspool was full. When finally it was recovered, there was all sorts of interesting pieces of kit hanging from the Lynx – human waste and sanitary napkins included. And the stink! It was only appropriate that Cpl Ernie Davis of the Maint Section should wrap the carrier completely in toilet paper, after recovering it. By the way, Kearney never did buy all the beer that he owed as a result of the escapade. No. 2 in popularity was: «FIRST TROOP REPAINTS A AND B SQNS.» Capt John Russell sent out only three foot patrols to infiltrate the harbours occupied by the tank squadrons during one night of Hohenfels training. Because of a lack of pyrotechniques, sir John gave us spray bombs. It was a miserable wet night but all the lads got through the infantry defences and, rather than attaching real live explosives to the bellies, painted pictures on the side skirts. OC A and OC B were not impressed, but first troop's morale, after a miserable cold night, was very high. No. 3 position belongs to: «C SQN VISITS OUR PARK.» Truly the best kept secret in the Brigade, the squadron mastered the mighty Weser. The weather was excellent and when training finished every day, the local swimming pool was very popular. SSM MacAdams was most disappointed that his canteen did not cater to the other Brigade units, as in past years.

Honourable mentions for 1976. First is the closure, once and for always, of the C Sqn canteen by the regiment. With Marchioni moving it daily from closet to closet, it died an imposed death in August. Apart from the fact that there are other clandestine (\$25 word for a Cpl) canteens in the Centre Marg, all are happy. We now use the excellent canteen facilities of 444 Sqn, which is only fifty yards from where we work. Second honourable mention goes to the squadron's participation in the Boeselager Cup competition for reconnaissance units. Lt Glen Leduc (attach posted from 8CH Jan - May 76) took Sgt Bierhorst, MCpls Jacobs and Coppelstone, Cpls Paquin, Dyck, Robert and Antonson, to Freyung (near Passau) for the annual event. Our team did not win but did very well considering that no Canadians had ever entered before. To the Germans, this competition is on par with the CAT tank gunnery competition.

How did we do in sports in 76? Well, we won some, but lost a few more. We started the year by losing hockey final to A Sqn, I believe. Then WO MacKay's team won the volleyball trophy. We lost the 76 Pentathlon, finishing second to B Sqn. Another loss was suffered in softball, where we only made to the semi-finals. This also happened in soccer. We did win the Leliefontein sports awards, led by Gertsen's bowling team, MacKay's volleyball team and the Chain of Command relay team. And last but definitely not least, we won the prestigious heavy tug-of-war trophy. Led by WO Lafontaine and MCpl Lockyer we beat the muscleheads easily.

To close off this letter, a word about who went on courses. The spring 6A course saw Dave Mason, Freddie Bierhorst, Rancourt and Leo Coulombe attend and pass. On the fall 6A course, Andre Nadeau and Mike Shute had the pleasure of missing fall exercises. The 6B course in the spring had Tooner Martin and Ziggy Stach on it. Mason and Coulombe returned to Gagetown in the fall to attend Advanced Gunnery and D&M, respectively. The only Combat Leader's Course of 76 was topped by Bob Brundige. Other squadron members who passed the same course were Ron Elvin, Wally Morehouse and Brian Carroll. A well done to everybody! Finally, MCpl Tom Coppelstone won the Eckhardt Trophy for 1976. Well done, Tom, but the troops are starting to wonder why we train all the MCpls to this standard, only to lose them to the tank squadrons. It happened with Freddie Bierhorst and now you.

Well, Mr. Editors and Readers, that's it for this year from Charles Sqn. We may not be as large as the tank squadrons or HQ squadron, but we sure are good. And it's fun! Here's wishing all RCD good times in 1977, «THE YEAR OF THE LEOPARD.»



Cover up time.



I know it's on this map somewhere.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

By Capt D.L. Corkum

In the quiet, serene surroundings of the Centre Marguerite, I am preparing to drop a line or two for insertion into the Springbok. The biggest alligator this morning was the rather nice tankie from the noisy north who has been subjecting me to constant harassment to get this article submitted.

As seems to be the rule rather than the exception, Headquarters Squadron has had a continuously busy year providing logistical support for regimental training activities. All demands placed upon members of the squadron were met and all who served with us should feel some sense of satisfaction for a year of jobs well done. We have had a grand exodus of personnel pass through the squadron during the year and we would like to take this opportunity to say it was good having them aboard and to thank them for their efforts in making it all work.

During 1976 the squadron participated in all the major training activities which are no doubt well documented in this publication. We would like to continue this article with some thoughts and reminiscences of the year gone by.

The year was kicked off with the annual 400 mile road rally to the cold of Bergen Hohne for the regimental gun camp. At Hone, the members of the squadron settled into the busy but not unpleasant garrison-type routine. Major gripees were associated with waist-lines and movies. WO Jack Stratford and company in concert with the Brit bakery produced much too much of the dough and goodies, forcing many to fight the «battle of the bulge». Movies were traditionally new and entertaining. «Mandingo» was shown, again, and no doubt will be back for 1977.

Following Hohne, the ATI grind was completed, and with all vehicles polished and in tip-top shape, the squadron moved on to Hueberg to rattle its sabres. Everyone got to bite, throw, and shoot the bullets and to feel a little sharp-endish during this annual weapons classification period.

After a reasonably quiet period, summer arrived and as August drew nigh so did the Munsingen Concentration. Oh, how we all love that Wurtemberg haven. We all managed to keep a low profile including the fellow who took a racing dive through a window of the quarters – with assistance. We managed to complete EX Mountain Wanderer numbers xxi and xxii, or whatever, designed as tactical warm-ups for bigger things to come. Packet movement was indeed skilled. This was clearly demonstrated by the QM and SHQ packets which rotated positions in the order of march as they followed their own routes during a short ten kilometre move. Surely not map reading error but rather a tactic designed to confuse the enemy. The squadron sports afternoon was a big hit with one highlight being the victory of Cpl Doug Schnell and the transport boys over our militia recce troop in the volleyball final. Honorable mention goes to Cpl Bob Evans from RHQ for his play by play announcements and inspirational cheer-leading. The sports included a super meal with a special cake and a drop of the grape provided by WO Nelson McPhee and the kitchen crowd.

After too short a break, it was off to partake in the Reforger 76 exercise. Thank goodness there was another long road move. We all loved the 20 mile trips off the autobahn for the three minute halts. Patience was tested early. Reforger was a hectic exercise indeed for us. Even us guys in the echelon got to move two to three times a day and at one time we were closer to the baddies than RHQ. SSM Jerry Cluett became very slick with his harbour recce parties; so good in fact, that rumour has it the Brigade Headquarters harbour-master really did follow him to claim his already selected sites for the general and his crew. We also got to try interoperability with an attached American mini-echelon. Although he could always find the commercial five ton stake with Christmas tree lights, WO Russ Berry had a heck of a time keeping a grip on their diesel pod.

On one rainy evening the OC, Maj Clive Addy, was definitely not overly happy at having loaned his jeep to an ally, based on the fact the CO's orders were to be but a short walk across a field from our location. After midnight the OC returned with no words of wisdom but rather disgruntled, wet, and having broken the zipper in his boots, had them muddy and falling off his feet. Seems another wrong grid reference had been dispatched by RHQ.

Log Ops was a fun place with its hootch-up, hootch-down routine. Sometimes it seemed that there were enough people inside for a squadron sized «O» Gp. One had to cut his way through the smoke and try to avoid tripping over Cpl Don Hogan's drooping mustache. Also, on that fateful night Cpl D.T. cracked-up the Log Ops truck, the saga of our favourite pancake maker, Cpl Gawin Walker, began. After an injury to his leg Cpl Walker was evacuated to 4 Fd Amb. The meds still do not know where he eventually got to, although as we reached Hohenfels, the RCD rear party got word to us that he eventually had reached them in Lahr.

Hohenfels was the place and time for an extended rest – well, sort of. Everyone liked the early morning PT, especially the Maint O, Capt Bob McLeod who arrived in bare feet and liked to smoke his first cigarette of the day while doing warm-up exercises. Several members of the squadron got out to local volksmarches and gathered some group trophies to don our hallways in Lahr. All this led to some excellent PT results for the 1.5 mile dash conducted on a super route in Hohenfels. WO Bill Baillie is still looking for a certificate to attest to the fact that he attained an excellent standard. The TQ, MWO Larry Perron, had the jobs which really epidomized much of our squadron's doings during the period. He had the task of liaising for lawnmowers for the grass and engineers for the hallowed halls with the fine examples of plumbing wonders.

After an eternity, we finally left Hohenfels for a final fling in the Brigade FTX. We tried the old A and B echelon concept, and with the smaller elements, did we ever fit into these small villages neatly. Sgt Sid Burlock and his medics got some potatoe sorting tasks assigned by their local host and earned Sid and the boys a healthy breakfast that day and a night-cap beer until departure to new digs. Our harbour guides spent hours finding the location beside a brewery for another overnight stay. The shower was not bad and the food reasonable but we knew it was time to leave when Cpl Eero Muna began phoning Log Ops to find if we might move in the near future so he could decide whether to order breakfast or not for the next day. Up in B echelon, where kitchens trucks were centralized while we were supposedly on pack rations, the duty officers continually relayed meal call over the administrative radio set. All in all it was a rather pleasant exercise, although some of the maintainers like Cpl Paul Slominski may not agree. I will always remember the looks on their faces as they returned to Log Ops in the wee hours of a morning after having spent hours looking for a broken tank, only to find upon return that it changed location or the grid reference was wrong. As a wrap-up to the fall exercise period report, I would like to ask the QM about a certain rum ration. Sgt Robbie Burns and Cpl Bob Charland indicate that it was not that issue that contributed to their prolonged repair trip with the OC to a downed vehicle.

It was then back to garrison and Leliefontein. Lots of effort was put into the event to make it a grand success. We managed to support the sabres on parade and even in the tanks. What does vehicle technician MCpl Charlie Surigny know about misfires anyway?

Well, there it is said and done. We have had a busy, sometimes hectic year and although there have been frustrations it was not all unfun and we now look forward to the challenges that 1977 will no doubt have to offer.



HQ Sqn on parade.

THE BLUES AND ROYALS 1976

The Regiment's first move into the field since our arrival in Germany was for troop training. This was preceded by two weeks' conversion firing at HOHNE in mid-February. This training enabled all new Chieftain gunners and commanders to put into practice the techniques they had learned in barracks. Although carried out in bitter weather the firing was satisfactorily concluded before the Regiment motored up the Weitzendorf Corridor to Soltau Training Area. Here each of the squadrons formed a tented base camp from which the troops could train on a day-to-day basis. The last three days of troop training were spent starring in a documentary television film which was directed by Mr. Peter Show for ITV News at Ten. This was one of four films on NATO's answer to the Warsaw Pact armies and was subsequently seen by ten million viewers in Great Britain.

Probably the most noticeable difference to this year's troop training compared with the Regiment's previous tour in BAOR, was in the increased reliability of the tanks. Although the average mileage for two weeks was over 300 miles per vehicle, no tank was ever off the road for 24 hours and only one out of 47 was not working properly at the end of the exercise.

On return to barracks in early March the inevitable task of cleaning off all the Soltau mud, servicing and repairing the vehicles began. Trade training also continued and the Regiment sent a troop from Command Sqn on one week's patrol of the East German border. At the same time «B» Sqn began working up for two week's additional training on Soltau with 2nd Bn The Royal Irish Rangers in preparation for exercise «Medicine Man III» in Canada. «C» Sqn paid an unexpected further visit to Soltau in April to star in a training film on helicopter-borne anti-tank guided weapons. Some of «C» Sqn had to represent the Warsaw Pact armies and had their vehicles redesigned by the LAD with fake guns, turrets and other paraphernalia, much to the surprise and concern of some of the locals in Detmold who saw them driving to the station for loading.

The second half of May saw all the Regiment except «B» Sqn busy in their final preparation for Annual Firing in June. However, the weekend before this began, the Rhine Army Summer Show took place at Bad Lippspringe for which the Regiment provided numerous judges and officials as well as a strong team of competitors. We were also invited to run one of the Officers' Mess dances which occurred over the weekend.

Annual Firing finished on 18 June and the remainder of this month and the first half of July were spent preparing the tanks for Combat Team training. The two weeks' training on Soltau in July and August split into two halves. The first was a week of Combat Team training where both squadrons practised each of the phases of war in a series of separate exercises. The second half was exercise «Royal Blue», a battlegroup exercise set by the Commander 20th Armoured Bde. Unfortunately, the harsh track mileage restrictions in operations, the Regiment was not able to cover as much real estate as we would have liked and the exercise was slightly restricted. However, this was a good finish to a year's tank training and proved that we are well capable of carrying out our primary role. In addition the reliability of the vehicles was re-emphasized by the fact that only one tank was off the road on our return to Detmold.

The months of August and September were spent completing a considerable amount of trade training to carry the Regiment over the next six month period when, due to a tour in Northern Ireland, no more tank training will be possible. Those people who were not involved on courses had the difficult task of cleaning up and servicing all the Regiment's tanks. At the end of September these were inspected by the Commanding Officer and then handed over to a small servicing team who will look after them during the Northern Ireland tour.

The Regiment has now reformed into three rifle squadrons for the Northern Ireland tour from January to May. In addition a fourth squadron, which constitutes the rear party, will remain in Detmold to run the barracks and man the tanks as required. The Regiment completed two months' training for Northern Ireland and moved to Londonderry over the Christmas period.

MILITARY TRADITION IN THE MESS ARE WE ALLOWING IT TO DIE

By Capt V.P. Guy

«Gentlemen, the Queen» (all rise) — «the Queen». So ends the formal portion of many mess dinners and for many new (did I hear someone say young?) officers it signifies little other than the colonel will soon allow the smoking lamp to be lit. What is tradition, what do we mean when we talk of mess tradition and how does one prolong the life of tradition. This paper will attempt to put into perspective some thoughts and feelings concerning military tradition and in particular, tradition in the officers' mess. Hopefully for those who may read this essay it will give you an opportunity to evaluate your own thoughts on tradition, what it means to you what you intend to do about it.

When one talks of tradition in a mess today it is sometimes difficult to isolate exactly what everyone perceives as being the mess and the traditions. Before the integration of the Canadian Forces, it was quite straight forward. There were Navy Wardrooms on ships, Air Force messes on airforce bases and Regimental and Corps messes in the Army. This has virtually gone by the board. The present mess environment is generally a single large facility in a base or station catering to the needs of all officers. This mess caters to those who have known one of the three pre-integration types of messes and also those who have experienced only the large integrated mess.

It is important to look at the group of people whom we are considering in this situation. There is that group which have known the regimental or service mess as it once existed. This is a group which remembers with deep and sincere emotion a place that, for many of them, was home. This group quite often lived within the mess environment when it was the very center of social and professional life for the regiment. It was also a place that most, through choice, were quite happy to enjoy. In addition, given the amount that an officer, particularly a subaltern, was making at this time it was the only environment that offered the social setting appropriate to their traditional upbringing, and, which they could afford. Having paid their mess bills there was normally little left over for other serious social commitments.

The other major group (and receptacle of the brunt of criticism by first group vis à vis adherence to tradition) consists of the officers who joined the Forces after integration. The majority of this group are subalterns. It is this group in whom the greatest obstacles seem to be present when attempting to engender pride and spirit for the mess and its' traditions.

The focal point of tradition in the mess for the new officer is normally the mess dinner. Even within the base mess concept, there are still many practices and customs continued by different regiments and «elements» which are the continuation of traditions once practiced in the old mess. These practices, particularly in terms of a mess dinner, simply amount to a code of conduct developed to ensure a polite and convivial atmosphere in which to enjoy each other's company and in which guests could be properly entertained without the least hint of rudeness or possibility of embarrassment. This is the very essence of the conduct of a mess dinner. This conduct also carries over into the idea of how one should act in the mess. Again it is a set of rules laid down which attempts to establish a relaxed setting for all members to unwind and enjoy each other's company and in which they can receive and entertain guests without the possibility of having them offended or embarrassed.

Having said that, one must look at how a new officer is initiated into this system. All too often he is given a set of mess regulations, and a dress guide and let loose. In addition to this he may be told that a certain ceremony is continued or that a certain format is followed in any given situation because it is «tradition». He says fine — whose tradition? This is the point where our system is beginning to fall down. It is not enough to tell an officer that something is done simply because it is tradition. If this idea of maintaining our traditions is to be nurtured and continued, these traditions must be fully understood and known by all mess or regimental members. It is only a function of good training that a person has the whys explained to him instead of simply being told to blindly follow a certain format.

There are no real opportunities in which the real meanings of many of the traditions which we have in our messes are passed along to new members. This does not happen during training, nor upon initially joining a new unit and it is up to the individual if he so desires to discover the «secret» meanings of tradition for himself.

What then do we have now? We have large impersonal institutes consisting of a large proportion of members who once enjoyed the intimacy of their own messes. These persons are normally well-versed in the traditions of the mess for their corps, regiment or service and are often the vocal element in condemning the new system and the ignorance of new officers joining the system. In addition we have a large number of anonymous new men and women entering a service which must have partially lured

them for the very reason of the traditions by which it is characterized yet who are never really given any firm guidance or tutoring in these customs which are held so dear. It is time that this was instituted as an integral part of CF training and also unit training. It is not enough to give someone a historical resumé of his unit. He must also be well versed in the reasons for regimental and unit traditions which go such a long way in helping to maintain identity for us in a military society is increasingly forcing anonymity on all of us.

A most simple solution to the problem of education of the new officer in military tradition would be to include it as part of the curriculum of officer cadet training. There are many common customs which could be introduced during early training to officers of all «elements». As their training progressed, the traditions could become more specific until they perhaps ended in lessons on regimental traditions. This would not only be an exercise in padding the ever increasing course content for officer training. It would also achieve the true ends of all military mess traditions in creating a relaxed and convivial atmosphere for fellow officers and their guests to enjoy themselves.

RCD OFFICERS REST AREA

By Lt J.D. Artibise

The Officer's Rest Area has had an exceptionally busy year. The decor of the Rest Area has been remodeled to have a rustic look which is a distinct improvement from the old medieval atmosphere. The new patio has made our B-B-Q's extremely popular. The changes undertaken in the Rest Area were greatly enhanced by the furniture provided by Hatz Breweries.

The Rest Area has held three major functions in the past year; namely a wife's Farewell Mess Dinner and Dance; Change of Command Mess Dinner and the 1976 Leliefontein Mixed Mess Dinner. For the last two functions we owe our thanks to the 17/21st LANCERS Band under the able direction of WO1 P.D. CONNIBEAR for an enjoyable evening of music.

The new PMC, Maj R.E. Acreman has announced an active social calendar for 1977. It will include monthly mixed social evenings as well as regular Happy Hours and bi-monthly Wednesday Luncheons.

WO'S AND SGT'S REST AREA

After the numerous activities which have taken place this year, the term «Rest Area» hardly seems appropriate for it has been anything but restful at times.

The sound of hammering and sawing, accompanied occasionally by colorful language as a hammer missed its mark, often disturbed the serene atmosphere as an assortment of talented handymen surfaced and proceeded to give the Rest Area a face lift. Under the innovative guidance of Leroy MacAdams a vast number of self-help projects were set in motion.

Dick Watson and Reg McMillan undertook the renovation of the bar with Fred Bitter installing the bar lights. Willy Williamson and Rod MacDougall created the RSM's Nook by rather casually making a wall disappear. Ziggy Stach and Bob Chalmers created a cozy dining room which also serves as a conference room.

Outside the Rest Area, a large tract of land just a shade smaller than the Ponderosa is being gradually fenced in with the ultimate aim of creating a recreation and picnic area for the members and their families.

Not to be forgotten are the charming members of the Ladies Club who gave the interior a thorough cleaning, made drapes for the windows and whose presence always improves the appearance of the Rest Area.

All those named and many others deserve a vote of appreciation for a job well done.

Despite the renovations program and other less important inconveniences such as exercises, the members also had time to enjoy themselves socially as Orie Whyte and his successor Jim Martin, along with their respective committees, organized some fine social events in the Rest Area.

Farewell luncheons, Bar-B-Q's, Wives' Night, Pot Luck Suppers, just to name a few, all proved to be popular, well attended functions as were the occasional Happy Hours.

Formal functions included a Candle Light Dinner, a Change of Command Dinner, and the annual Leliefontein Formal Mixed Dinner. These events were highly successful and well appreciated by all those attending. Once again, it was the hard work and skillful organizing by Orie Whyte and Jim Martin that contributed greatly to the success of these functions.

Lack of finances has always been a problem, but our present fund raising committee under Dick Elliott has shown exceptional skill in separating the members from their money. It is rumored that a group of distinguished gentlemen belonging to an organization based in Sicily intend to come up and study their methods.

As usual, a number of members have been posted out, some have been posted in and a few have been promoted into our ranks. This year, two members, Al Lawrence and Don Nicholson retired after long careers in the C.A.F. Al returned to Canada and Don is settling down in Holland. To them and their families we wish a long and happy life in retirement.

To those who have been posted out we wish the best of luck in your new environment and to members posted in or promoted we say welcome and hope to see you enjoying yourselves at the various Rest Area activities.

PMC MEN'S REST AREA

By K.J. Miller

The Men's rest area in June had a substantial surplus of money, so it was decided to start to renovate the building.

Before any real building was started, Munsingen was upon us, but, we had the plans. After Munsingen and before the fall training period we found out that Hatz wouldn't supply the new furniture that we wanted for the renovations, so Skinner Johnson and his crew of carpenters started working on Saturday. It seemed that every time there was any heavy sawing to do, Bill Gillett found himself at the working end of the saw. Surprisingly enough the work parties always ended up drinking more Coke than Beer. (Bill says it was from the poor quality of beer left behind for them to drink). Then the Regiment was off for the fall training period. The happy hour at Hohenfels was a big success after Wayne MacKenzie laid on DM 500 for liquor and beer and had the cooks fix up a beautiful cold plate that went just about as fast as it was brought out. After the fall training period, the work party really went to town on the rest area. They panelled the walls, made some curtain boxes, and stained them along with several other finishing touches. Then Wayne had his second happy hour which was equally as good as the one in Hohenfels, with over 100 members turning out. For this one the cooks prepared some excellent clam chowder. Wayne MacKenzie was trying to show his troop leader all evening that he could knock more trunks off the bar than anyone else. He won.

The rest area is really starting to shape up now. The curtains are almost ready to be hung and there is a plan ready to be submitted to CE to have a patio and a sidewalk constructed. The sidewalk is to extend from the tank hangers to the back door of the rest area.

There has been a lot of work done in the men's rest area in the past 6 or 7 months and I'd like to thank all those people who gave up their Saturdays to work on it.



Sgt Don Nicholson receives retirement scroll.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS ASSOCIATION

PART I

PEOPLE AND PERSONALITIES

The President's message covered much of the Association news and so I'll just add some detail about meetings and people we know. By the time the Springbok goes to press next year I'll be organized to produce a comprehensive sitrep from all regions across Canada and elsewhere.

Each and every edition of the Springbok has appealed to all of us to contribute. News about retired Dragoons (there are no «ex-Dragoons»), where they are and what they are doing; anecdotes about the «good old days» that illustrate better than anything else what soldiering in peace, was, or peacekeeping is all about. With the passage of time even the most embarrassing situation takes its proper perspective and can serve to educate, stimulate or entertain members of the Regiment to-day. Enough Dragoons, not only my peers, know some of my own embarrassments and perhaps in the retelling the story could help someone else along the way. So chaps, put pen to paper and add your bit.

Reverend Bill Issac, who was our Chap (P) during Col Bateman's command, retired from the Canadian Forces in July. One of his last army/church functions was to dedicate three plaques from the Protestant Chapel closed out at Soest and now displayed in the Protestant Chapel at Base Borden. I had the honour to read the lesson at that service and that was my last duty in the army. Bill is now living in Truro so some of our members in the Maritimes may see him from time to time.

Syd Williams received a letter from T. Lawrence (No 20, 2nd Tp, A Sqn, RCD, 1st CFE) part of his letter follows:

«I must thank you for the last copy of the Springbok which was very interesting. Especially the account of the RCDs in action at Moreuil Wood, by Capt J.R. McKenzie. I left the RCD after Cambrai Nov 27, 1917 – to return to England for a commission recommended by Major Bowie and Sir John Seely. At that time there was less than 20 of the 1914 A Sqn boys. In August 1915 there was only 93 of the original A Sqn left and we all lined up to pick 3 leaves to England out of Major Bowie's cap. I was 90th in line and got the last of the 3. It was 2 years and 2 months before I got the second one (leave). After I was in England I received a letter from Barney Shields giving an account of the counter-attack by the Germans (&) giving a list of wounded and killed. We were up at Cambrai from Nov 20 to Nov 27. The 2nd Tp A Sqn was escort to a battery of RCHA, so we had an easy time, except that it rained most of the time and (we) subsisted on corned beef and biscuits, no hot meals at all –

«On page 47 of the Spur and Sprocket it mentions the book by Brig Sir John Seely «Adventure» published 1930, and dedicated to the Canadian Cavalry. The name of the publisher is not mentioned as I would very much like a copy. . . »

If any of our bibliophiles know where Mr. Lawrence can get a copy of «Adventure» please write to him at PO Box 102, Marshall Hills Mass USA 02051.

Another old comrade of special interest to this edition of the Springbok is our President Syd Williams. It was most appropriate that Syd made the presentation of the Eckhardt Trophy during the Liliefontein celebrations this year because he was one of the twenty seven seriously wounded with LCpl Eckhardt.

Church Mann didn't really give up soldiering when he turned over his duties as Colonel of the Regiment to Buster Phillips in November 1964. He served another two years as Honourary Colonel of the Ontario Regiment at Oshawa Ontario, and his officers had a mixed dinner for Gen and Mrs. Mann when he retired. His farewell address was an account of the surrender of the 25th German Army to 1st Canadian Army. The text (from Gen Mann's notes) follows:

«Colonel Hall, Ladies and Gentlemen

On the 12th of March, I completed fifty years of commissioned service, the last two, happily for me, as your Honourary Colonel.

It may be useful to some of you, I believe interesting to you all to hear of a meeting before the 25th German Army sought surrender terms in May 1945. I was Chief of Staff, Headquarters First Canadian Army from January 1944 until the Headquarters was dissolved and returned to Canada in mid-summer 1945. We had learned through the Dutch underground that the Germans wished to surrender to us, before the fighting had stopped. They were then cut off from their own channels of supply and this would enable us to commence feeding the Dutch population who were on starvation rations. We met behind the German lines. Siezinquart, the Reich Commissar for Holland was present, General Bedell Smith (Eisenhower's Chief of Staff) was in the chair

The arrangements were quickly made, we would not advance further pending final surrender of all the German forces. We agreed to commence feeding the Dutch people as of the next day, with air drops, ships and motor transport to the amount of 3000 tons a day.

The Germans agreed not to divert any of the supplies for their own use. Each truck would have a German guard and a member of the Dutch underground to guide it to the desired destination. Our drivers were to have safe conduct into and back from the German lines.

The deliveries would be greatly increased as soon as the port of Rotterdam could be cleared for our vessels by our Engineer personnel, with Dutch assistance.

Following this arrangement, which the Germans quickly agreed to, there was a short break and the senior officers then gathered again, with General Bedell Smith in the chair. General Foulkes, Commanding 1 Canadian Corps, was present, I represented the Army Commander (General Crerar), Siezinquart and one staff officer of his represented the Germans. Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands was

there as an observer. General Smith opened this meeting by saying «Siezinquart this meeting is to give you the opportunity of surrendering all the German forces in Holland, thus saving thousands of lives and much hardship for the Dutch. «Siezinquart replied «until I receive an order from the Fueher to surrender we will persist to the best of our abilities.»

General Smith then said «Siezinquart, if you have any humane feelings, which I doubt, you will accept this opportunity to end the casualties involved in refusal.» he then added; «in your own case it makes no difference, you are on our war criminals list and in due course will be shot.» Siezinquart calmly replied «that leaves me cold.»

Smith rose to his feet, pointed a finger, as though with a pistol, and said «it will — this meeting is ended.» We went outside the Waginigen schoolhouse to find hundreds of Dutch people, all laughing. We then saw a Mercedes-Benz driven by Prince Bernhardt disappearing at high speed in a cloud of dust.

Later at the Army Commander's Mess, Bernhardt met us as we arrived remarking «Well, after all it was my car!» It has been abandoned in 1940 when a British naval vessel took Queen Wilhelmena and the Prince safely aboard, moments before the Germans arrived to arrest them.

Our arrangements to feed the Dutch were very successful and continued for a long period. However, on Mar 4th 1945 the Germans sent a delegation to ask for surrender terms from Field Marshal Montgomery. This took place at Luneburg Heath and I had the pleasure of being there while the Germans signed the document of unconditional surrender.

General Foulkes accepted the surrender of the 25th German Army from General Blaskowitz on behalf of the Army Commander General Crerar.

Next day, in accordance with protocol, I held a meeting with the German General Blaskowitz and his Chief of Staff to make sure that the First Canadian Army orders were clearly understood and that the Germans had no doubts as to our requirements on their way back to Germany across the Great Dike, by march route several hundred miles. They were escorted by Canadian Armoured Car Regiments.

I asked General Blaskowitz if he fully understood the orders, he said that he did. Then I said «you will receive any further orders from the Commander 1st Canadian Corps, if you wish to make any comment this is your opportunity. We shall not meet again.»

He and his Chief of Staff then spoke quietly to each other, Blaskowitz finally saying that he considered the 25th German Army had been insulted by the 1st Canadian Army! I promptly replied «who cares?» then curiosity getting the better of me I said «without prejudice to my prior remarks, if the German Commander wishes to explain his last comment I am prepared to listen.»

Blaskowitz stabbed at the bottom left corner of the document and taking a glance at my own copy quickly realized what was on his mind. The surrender document, in final form, was dated early in December, at which time the Germans were breaking through the American armies in the Ardennes. The 25th German Army stood ready to strike at 1st Canadian Army as soon as the southern group seized the crossing of the Meuse at Dinant. Thereby opening the route to Antwerp, the largest port in Europe.

I observed that in 1870 when the German armies broke through the French armies easily, all the important countries in Europe decided to adopt the German General Staff system. Which meant that the General staff should prepare for every eventuality in outline and in full detail for those that were inevitable but merely a question of time.

Blaskowitz, a Nazi type, said that he did not understand. I remarked that his Chief of Staff would. Blaskowitz looked baffled so I continued to say that history showed that any time a Canadian Army had been engaged against a German army it was merely a question of time until the German army surrendered to the Canadian Army. This brought laughter from the Allied side of the table. I then said «this meeting is over.»

I am sure that you can understand that this was a happy occasion for us, after six long years at war. Many of us took an opportunity to view the Germans on their long march to Germany as they trudged up the Great Dutch Dike under the guns of our Armoured Cars.

My final words for you officers are that in some circumstance you may have the pleasure of taking the surrender of an army against whom you have been engaged. Though in my opinion it is likely to be of another nation than our excellent ally the Germans. Now it is time for me to wish you every success in preparing yourselves and your soldiers for the time when active service comes your way. THOROUGH AND THOUGHTFUL TRAINING SAVES MEN'S LIVES, INCLUDING YOUR OWN. (Gen Mann's emphasis).

PART II

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS ETC

The Annual Meeting was held at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto and was an unqualified success. About 125 members attended and for a while it seemed that every one of them was going to take an active part in the business meeting. There were a couple of points on the agenda that turned out to be more than a little contentious.

Colonel Bateman presented Syd Williams with our Letters Patent (Charter). They have been suitably framed and are to be held by the President during his term of office.

Some discussion took place on what the Executive could or should do with principal and interest generated by Life Memberships. It was moved and passed that Life Membership proceeds be held in a deposit separate from the General Fund but may be utilized by the Executive as they saw fit. Later in the meeting the members approved that annual dues from 1 January 1977 forward be raised from five to ten dollars per member per year. Bill Pearce requested that a budget be prepared for our

information. The President is seeing to this and members can expect a financial accounting before long.

Three new Directors were elected to the Board. Pat Grieve from Ottawa, Harry Gray and Ed Johnson from Toronto. They were present and took their places with the other Directors.

Ron Brown displayed three RCD Association emblems based upon the Springbok and Royal Cypher motif. The membership was asked to indicate a preference for any one, or none, of the proposed emblems and a very heated discussion was on. It seemed for a few minutes that the Canadian Flag Debate was about to be eclipsed. Finally Ed Beswick moved and Brian O'Connell seconded a motion that the matter be referred back to the Executive for action. At a Director's meeting in Ottawa on 19 November 1976 the Directors agreed that the Association will not adopt a distinctive emblem but will, instead, continue to use the Regimental badge without modification. George Watier is negotiating with Wm Schilly, Montreal, for production of an old RCD emblem (a silver Springbok over a blue enameled scroll about 5/8 inch long, slightly larger than the old lapel pin.) LCol Milner has agreed to stock the pin in the Regimental Kit Shop at Lahr and make it available to all Dragoons, serving or retired. Details of price and method of order will be promulgated as soon as possible.

Our museum property is in good order at Gagetown and if or when it becomes necessary the RCD Association will be charged by the Chief of Defence Staff with care and custody of all museum artifacts judged to be RCD Non-Public Property.

Colonel Bateman informed the meeting of an affiliation between The Royal Canadian Dragoons and the Governor General's Horse Guards. He presented LCol Dave Freisen, CO GGHG, with a framed print of our Guidon during the dinner dance.

By now you will have received a letter from Ron Brown requesting payment of your annual dues. At ten dollars per year the cost of life membership at fifty dollars seems to be a bargain. Please get your return off to Ron as soon as possible.

At the 19 November Director's meeting Ron Brown graciously agreed to continue as Secretary Treasurer. Pat Grieve accepted the duties of 1983 Centennial Coordinator. Members wishing to assist with centennial planning should write:

P.V.B. Grieve
Apartment 607
1833 Riverside Drive
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1G 0E6

Have any of you seen some of the following Dragoons lately? Where are they? How are they? What have they done since? Do you remember when we soldiered-to-gether? George Bell, the Binns brothers, Hank Donville, Sam East, Cy Gaskin, John Gautier, John Harte, Ralph Jenkins, Rick Latham, Sailor Lawrence, JM Lord, Phil Manion, JE Manning (hale as ever) Art Mathewman, Frank Mears, Ken Meeker, Frank Murphy, Sandy Paton, Jack Patton, Bud Simmons, Hal Wright, Harry Watson, Ross Wadell. Well these are just some of the members who attended the 1976 annual meeting. One hundred and twenty five Dragoons from as far as Victoria BC and St John's Nfld came out to see YOU.

The next annual meeting will be in LONDON, Ontario, on 15 October. Full details will be distributed on a direct mailing to all Dragoons (members of the Association or not). Make YOUR plans to attend.

Ed Note: It is RCD Association policy that only the Colonel of the Regiment and the Commanding Officer have rank in Association correspondence, including the Springbok.

NOTICE TO GERMANY IN NOVEMBER 1977

George Watier is coordinating details for an Association visit to the Regiment at Lahr in November 1977. So far there isn't much information to offer except the basics.

OBJECTIVE

To join with the Regiment for the 1977 Celebration of the Action at Leliefontein.

WHERE

CFB Europe, Lahr, Germany.

WHEN

Early November, the exact date can not be determined until the formation training calendar is approved.

ACTIVITIES

RCD Association Dinner.
All Ranks Dance
Regimental Sports Afternoon
Regimental Smoker
Leliefontein Parade

HOW

It is proposed to have a Montreal Travel Agency set up Advanced Booking Charters (ABC) for travel and accommodation. Individual itineraries can be arranged.

WRITE

George Watier
6 100th Avenue
N.D. Ile Perrot Quebec
J7V 5V6

ONE OF THE SABRE SQNS DOES NOT HAVE TANKS

By Capt R.G. Meating

When Canada reduced her contribution to NATO in 1970, both 4 CMBG's Armoured Regiment and its Reconnaissance squadron underwent major changes; changes that still exist today. From 54 tanks (three tank squadrons) in Fort Beausejour, Iserhohn, the armoured regiment was restructured with 32 tanks (two tank squadrons). The second «black hat» element of 4 CIBG, an independent brigade reconnaissance squadron of 154 all ranks stationed in Soest, lost its independency to become the third squadron of the new armoured regiment, The RCD. Strathcona's and Hussars put up the Springbok in the fields of the Sennelager ranges on 1 July 1970. Moving to their new home in Lahr, C Sqn RCD (half the size of C Sqn 8 CH) was tasked to continue as the «Eyes and Ears» of 4 CMBG.

Let's isolate on C Sqn RCD and examine the changes of the last 8 to 10 years to the brigade recce resource.

In 1967, C Sqn was organized in four troops, three of which were equipped with seven Ferret scout cars. The fourth troop was the helicopter troop with six Hiller choppers. In 1968 when the Light Armoured doctrine was totally in vogue, C Sqn received an increase in establishment. The hitherto restricted assault troop of 35 all ranks, which previously flew over only for fall exercises, moved into Fort Chambly. In the last half of 1968 the squadron was re-equipped with Lynx C & R vehicles. With six Lynx in each of the three scout troops, APCs in the assault troop and tracks in SHQ, the squadron F echelon became amphibious and methods of operating changed. No longer was the squadron «sneak and peek», as when Ferret mounted. And no longer were the many water obstacles of Central Europe problems for recce probes of C Sqn. And more changes were to come.

On 1 July 1970 the squadron was reduced to about 96 all ranks when the assault troop was removed and the SHQ and echelon cut. Also at that time the sixth Lynx in each troop was war restricted, to be manned by flyover crews. 1971 saw more changes when the helicopter troop received the Kiowa and became a sub unit of the brigade tactical flying unit – 444 Tac Hel Sqn. Although a close working relationship continued, gone was the flexibility and close training derived from having integral helicopter support. With the removal of the helicopters, C Sqn shrank again; this time from 96 to 72, where we stand today. 154 in 1968 to 72 in 1976.

What does the squadron in the Center Marg do? Is it true that the squadron works for two bosses? Is the recce soldier of 1977 as proficient as his pre-1970 counterpart? Should C Sqn be independent?

C Sqn trains to provide the Commander 4 CMBG accurate information about the enemy, his actions and intentions five to ten kms from friendly lines. Map reading and vehicle movement, combined with as thorough knowledge as possible about enemy tactics, are the basics for providing the information the Commander wants. Much time is spent throughout the year learning recce skills. «Black tracking» and cross country movement is practiced in the local RMA (Requisition Manoeuvre Area). Still water and fast water swimming in Lahr and northern Germany provides all troops with necessary expertise and confidence in the vehicles. The Lynx is one of the best swimmers in our inventory and C Sqn has the crews best trained to swim them. AFV recognition, essential to the recce man, is also maintained at a high standard. Although not advocates of fighting for information with .50 cals, the squadron strives to maintain high standards in weapons skills. The squadron gets two opportunities per year, aside from annual fall exercises, to practice all their skills.

Does C Sqn have two bosses? Yes, and it has considerable impact during operations when compared with pre-1970. Now, the CO RCD has no recce resources which he can call upon to perform his battle group recce tasks, because during operations C Sqn is a semi independent squadron which is tasked by the Brigadier. In garrison the squadron belongs to the CO but in operations we belong to the Commander 4 CMBG. Why only semi independent? Because only an A1 echelon belongs to the squadron and all back-up support comes from HQ Sqn RCD.

Is the recce soldier of 1977 as proficient as his pre-1970 counterpart? There are several considerations which will answer this. Being an independent unit pre-1970, the squadron received trained soldiers with specialist recce TSQs (mines, demolitions, surveillance equipment, NBC operators, etc.). Screening was done before posting to ensure that each soldier would be operationally employable on arrival. Today, this is not the case. Soldiers are not posted to C Sqn because they have recce skills, but rather because they don't have tank skills. And with PL3 postings to Europe, recce squadron is always training basic recce skills. C Sqn does not have one surveillance equipment operator at present, yet we could well receive new radar and in 1969 we had over thirty. Today's recce soldiers are as professionally dedicated and industrious as in years gone by, but the well oiled, rehearsed smooth running machine is not the same. What is missing in today's squadron are the little extras that were present to 1970.

Should C Sqn be independent again? The squadron and the regiment train for war in two different fields. In operations, the squadron works directly for brigade, yet in garrison we work through intermediaries to the same HQ. As the MP PL, the Medical Unit, the Infantry Units, the Artillery unit and the tank unit are independent, so should the Brigade Recce resource. Realistically though, this with current manning levels would be impossible.

SIMFIRE AS A TRAINING AID IN 4 CMBG

By Lt K. McKay

The defensive position had been carefully selected. The troop of tanks were well concealed and would not show themselves until the approaching force was well in the killing zone. The radio crackled and those that listened knew the fire fight would soon begin as the lead enemy tanks were entering the killing zone. As the seconds ticked off it became clear that with good shooting there would be three enemy tanks knocked out immediately; the two on the move and one of the tanks in a fire base as he had adopted a very poor position. The friendly tanks all revved up as if only one machine and crept to their hull down positions and fired. Smoke belched from two of the enemy tanks immediately. Before the ambushed enemy troop could return fire the remaining tank that had been on the move rolled to a halt as smoke rose from it. However the fight was not to be one sided. The friendly Charlie tank, with the new crew commander signified that it had taken a direct hit as a tall tell tale smoke column rose from it. The single remaining enemy tank did not last long. The remaining three defenders combined to knock it out as it tried to get into better cover. It was plain for all to see that the defenders had won a conclusive victory as there was a lot of orange smoke in the killing zone. The orange smoke is the trademark of a Simfire kill. There were no burning tanks or dead men in this engagement. All of the tanks had been knocked out using Simfire; a training aid developed in Great Britain to realistically simulate the fire of direct fire weapons.

There are two main components in the complete Simfire package; one is a laser which simulates the firing of a weapon and the other is a set of four detection devices used to kill the vehicle on which they are installed. The laser component is usually mounted on the barrel of a tank. It has to be sighted in along with the gunnery equipment. When the gunner fires a shot the laser emits a ray which will hit the point that a real round, whether it be HESH or Sabot would have hit. The gunner has an attachment that fits onto the eyepiece of his sight which tells him if he is high or low, right or left or has scored a hit. The gunner is thus able to make corrections from his initial shot. The device does not, however, tell the gunner how far he is off, only in what direction.

Each vehicle would have four detection devices that pick up any laser beams in the vicinity of the device. These devices have a two-fold purpose; they can detect a direct hit and thereby knock the vehicle out and they can also detect near misses so that a device can be triggered that warns the crew and enables them to take evasive action as they would do if live ammo was falling in their vicinity.

As well, there are two smoke emitting devices in the Simfire package. One is very similar to the Hoffman device; that is, when a round is fired from the main weapon (laser beam) a charge goes off which emits white smoke to simulate the dust and smoke of a real round and thereby obscuring the vision of the gunner and crew commander. The other device is an orange smoke grenade which is set off electrically when the vehicle receives a direct hit. Consequently it is obvious when it has been hit.

There is one other device in the package. It has several functions. It records the number of rounds fired by the main weapon and of what type. It also has a button which when reset allows the engine to be started. When a direct hit is received, the Simfire unit shuts off the engine of the hit tank and consequently the tank stops. On exercise this device is secured to prevent the crew from resetting the button. Umpires would have the key and the responsibility of bringing the knocked out vehicles back to life.

The last remaining device that is available is called Simray. It is a laser «ray gun» that is man-portable. An umpire can easily manpack this device and can therefore award kills on a battlefield as the actual combat takes place.

As is quite easily seen, the RCD should be a unit equipped with Simfire. It would be a very valuable training aid to the Regiment. It would be plainly obvious to the individual commanders and troop leaders when a tactical error had been committed as a large cloud of orange smoke designates a kill. As it is now, many bad habits go unchecked as there is nothing concrete to change the status quo.

Just as all the main battle tanks should receive Simfire, so should the anti-tank platoon, of the infantry battalions. The force acting as enemy on exercise would be the other large group to be equipped with Simfire. If possible the APC's in the brigade could have detection devices mounted on them. Umpires should have Simray at their disposal. If this equipment was issued in these quantities the immediate training value would become quite clear in all phases of war.

Simfire would have enormous training value for a force training for the defence. As was earlier described, it would be easy to see if a defence worked as the attacking force's vehicles would be stopped. On the other hand it would be just as easy to ascertain weaknesses in the defence for defending vehicles would also be knocked out. In war today guided missiles play a major role and any tank in the defence will be attacked by them. As the situation stands now, whole defences could be knocked out by missiles and no one is the wiser. An enemy force with Simfire could easily point out the offending vehicles. It would be much cheaper to use Simfire to teach commanders how to site a defence rather than wait until real ammo is used in a real war.

As it stands today, an attacking force never loses a vehicle. With Simfire, the defenders would be able to take their toll on the attacking force and add realism to the exercise. A poorly planned attack would not succeed as it does today, for there would be a string of vehicles spread out from the start line to the objective. As was the case in the defence, commanders at all levels would have their weaknesses and/or strong points clearly spelt out for them. Commanders might only have one-half of their force left by the time an attack was finished. The whole context of the situation would have now changed requiring new tactics and planning that is today not carried out for the only vehicles out of action are those that mechanically break down.

As far as the advance to contact, pursuit and withdrawal go, what is a better way to learn? The battle drills carried out and the ground selected must be adequate to ensure vehicles are not knocked out as they commit themselves. In order to survive, all commanders would have to do their job properly.

Equipping the brigade with Simfire would give exercises much more realism. It would provide a means for evaluating and give an accurate feedback of the quality of training. Attacks that would never succeed in war would no longer be the victories that they are today. Commanders at all levels would come under the pressures that only real war provides such as repulsed attacks, fighting with units that are suddenly at two-thirds strength etc. An umpire with Simray could easily simulate the firepower of anti-tank weapons on an advancing force.

Simfire would have enormous benefits for the RCD. The gunner's job would be much more interesting and he could be in fact the person that keeps his tank in the fight by killing another vehicle first. Every crew commander would be forced to pick the best ground and positions. He would have to jockey from position and carry out battle drills correctly. Otherwise his tank would be immobile with a large orange cloud over it.

Granted, if Simfire was purchased in quantities it would cost several hundred thousand dollars. Technicians would have to be trained on the unit as well as the crews. However, Simfire would teach commanders lessons that they would normally only find out when it was too late; that is, in real war. The cost of Simfire would be negligible in comparison to the tanks and crews it could save by training the crews properly. Exercises would become much more realistic. As it is today, all plans work for there is nothing to interfere with a bad one. Simfire would provide the means and way of showing commanders their faults so that when war does come, tanks and more important, lives will not be lost learning these same lessons.

RCD CADET CORPS

By Capt B.J. Forsyth

1976 proved to be an outstanding year for the RCD Cadet Corps. The Corps under the excellent leadership of Major Costeloe (Ret.) has doubled its parade strength and continues to grow as interest in the programme expands. Cadet activities have improved in number and quality and the opportunities for cadets to travel and utilize the numerous courses available have increased.

The 1976 training year included two weekend exercises in the spring during which the junior cadets were introduced to the basics of map using, weapons training, and camp routine. The senior cadets acted as instructors for the lecture portions and leaders during the tactical phases. The boys gained a great deal of experience and knowledge of soldiering skills. In February, twenty cadets travelled to London, England for two days as part of cadet cultural training. In April the corps sent a team of cadets to a rifle competition held in Trenton. As a result of coaching from Cpl Allen and numerous Saturday mornings in the IMR North Marg, the boys were at a high enough standard to put on an excellent show in the competition. The reward for a year of hard work and training came in May during the final parade and inspection when the corps won the Strathcona shield as the best corps in the Eastern Ontario region.

Training for the boys did not end with the final parade. All cadets who were interested had the opportunity to attend a two or six week cadet camp at Ipperwash, Ontario. The level of training of the RCD Cadets was evident in the results of the summer courses where the boys placed extremely high.

Cadet training re-commenced in September with Major Costeloe at the reigns and a new slate of RCD Instructors. The instructing cadre was expanded to include members of the Base Air Defence Battery. By employing Base personnel on a permanent basis, the Cadets have Regular Force instructors available at all times, even when the Brigade is in the field.

Activities in the fall included a weekend field exercise, three days of small bore shooting, a Saturday of class-room training, and participation in the Leliefontein celebrations, the poppy drive, and the Santa Claus parade.

The Highlight of the fall season was a two day visit to 293 PZ Battalion, Stetten. The cadets had the opportunity to examine the German equipment soon to be put into use by the RCD.

The fall activities concluded on the 16 Dec 76 with a Christmas Dinner in the community centre.

Activities planned in the 77 season include participation in a First Aid competition, a rifle competition in Canada, live firing of small arms on the Achern ranges, a visit to the RCD to include Helicopter rides, Lynx driving and investigation of Leopard Tanks, a trip to London and Arnhem, and numerous field exercises. The Schedule is full and should prove challenging and interesting for the cadets.

The success of the corps over the past year can be attributed to the hard work of the cadets and instructors involved, and the excellent support received from the RCD, Base, and other units. With a continuation of this support and enthusiasm, 1977 should be another good year for the unit. The results should be one more RCD Cadet Corps name plate on the Strathcona Shield.



The coveted prize.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS 1976

GENERAL

The Regiment continued with an active physical fitness and sports programme last year. PT took place each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 0730 until 0830 hours under squadron arrangements and Thursday afternoons were reserved for inter-squadron and recreational sports.

PHYSICAL FITNESS TRAINING

The measure of the effectiveness of squadron controlled PT programmes is the twice yearly 1.5 mile run with trophies awarded for the fastest individual and for the squadron with the highest percentage of personnel achieving the excellent standard. Last year's results were:

1.5 MILE RUN RESULTS				
TESTING PERIOD	SQN	PERCENTAGE EXCELLENT	CLEMENT TROPHY WINNER	COL OF THE REGT TROPHY WINNER
Nov-Apr	A	55%	A Sqn	Capt Forsyth 8:33
	B	25%		
	C	27%		
	HQ	26%		
May-Oct	A	59%	B Sqn	Sgt Schiratti 8:52
	B	66%		
	C	22%		
	HQ	47%		

In addition, but not competitively, squadrons were required to complete Battle Efficiency Fitness testing for all squadron personnel. This consisted of a five mile forced march in the spring and two 10 kilometer forced marches on successive days in the fall period.

INTER SQUADRON SPORTS

Winter sports were, as usual, hockey and volleyball with HQ Squadron winning the hockey trophy (A Sqn runner up) and B Squadron winning the volleyball (HQ Squadron runner up).

Fair weather brought the Regiment outdoors to the soccer pitches and baseball diamonds. The finals for these inter-squadron sports were played in Hohenfels when B Squadron won the soccer (A Squadron runner up) and HQ Squadron ended up softball champs (A Squadron runner up).

A controversial but enforced feature of inter squadron sports last year was the elimination of the last place team in regular league play from the finals in all sports. This made regular Thursday afternoon games count towards winning trophies for squadron trophy cases.

REGIMENTAL TEAMS

The Regiment sponsored teams in 4 CMBG and base leagues in the following sports:

Hockey, Broomball, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Softball.

Unfortunately, while herculean efforts were witnessed on the part of all these teams, none managed to bring home the gold in 1976 . . . it is better to have played and lost than not . . . etc, etc.

LELIEFONTEIN SPORTS AFTERNOON

Leliefontein sports day was a series of hard fought, no nonsense athletic events. Squadrons fielded teams for a swim meet, a volleyball round robin tournament, floor hockey and bowling competitions. The afternoon's highlight was a chain of command military relay race where successively higher ranking team members had to race with more equipment. The last runners, the Squadron Commanders, were carrying the following gear:

SMG

Helmet and liner

Webbing with respirator and water bottle

Cargo pack

Jerry Can (empty)

Map board (large)

Track pin with Squadron pennant

Recce Squadron was the winner of the Leliefontein Sports Trophy. Results were as follows:

POINTS

	VOLLEYBALL	SWIMMING	BOWLING	FLOOR HOCKEY	RELAY RACE	TOTAL POINTS	PLACE
A Sqn	1	1	3	5	2	12	3rd
B Sqn	2	2	2	1	1	8	4th
C Sqn	5	3	5	3	5	21	1st
HQ Sqn	3	5	1	2	3	14	2nd

And that was sports in 1976. Remember — a sound mind, a sound body — take your pick.



Mr. Sid Williams presents award to Cpl Slaght.



Heads up!



Line up of sports winners.

KIT SHOP

Plaque RCD Painted SM	—	ea	—	18.00 DM
Plaque RCD Walnut/Bronze	—	ea	—	55.00 DM
Mug Tankard	—	ea	—	18.00 DM
Broach Rhinestone Springbok	—	ea	—	23.00 DM
Cravat RCD Poplin	—	ea	—	18.00 DM
Cravat RCD Crimplene	—	ea	—	5.00 DM
Saddle Blanket	—	ea	—	120.00 DM
Cap Badge RCD Bronze	—	ea	—	13.50 DM
Cap Badge Gold Wash	—	ea	—	13.50 DM
Crests Jacket RCD	—	ea	—	1.70 DM
Christmas Cards RCD	—	ea	—	.10 DM
RCD Stickers Lg	—	ea	—	.10 DM
Sm	—	ea	—	.05 DM
Writing Kit	—	ea	—	5.00 DM
Cufflinks RCD	—	set	—	43.00 DM
Tie Tack RCD	—	ea	—	13.00 DM
Gilt Collar Badge	—	pr	—	13.50 DM
Silver Collar Badge	—	ea	—	2.10 DM
Book Spur & Sprocket	—	ea	—	5.00 DM
Beret	—	ea	—	18.00 DM

NOTE: 1. Due to stock depletion and delay in receiving orders, articles may not be available at time requested. However, orders will be filled as soon as possible. The prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuation.

2. Address for orders is: Kit Shop, The RCD, CFPO 5000, Belleville, Ontario, K0K 3R0.

3. ERE PERS are to note that the gold wash cap badge is now worn on the beret when that headdress is worn with any order of dress other than combat order.

EXTRA - REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED DRAGOONS

BGen	C.G.	Kitchen	CDLS (W)
BGen	M.L.A.	Weisman	DCDS
Col	R.J.	Brown	ADM POL/CPROG/DGOM/DMPC
Col	P.H.C.	Carew	CFB Suffield
Col	J.A.R.	Gardam	RSS Prairie
Col	K.G.	Troughton	ADM (POL)
LCol	S.R.	Billings	FMCHQ
LCol	J.K.	Dangerfield	CFCSC
LCol	E.	Exley	FMCHQ
LCol	R.D.	Gross	RSS Central
LCol	H.B.E.	Lake	FMCHQ
LCol	J.B.	Long	FMCHQ
LCol	J.N.	Murphy	HQ AF NORTH
LCol	G.J.	O'Connor	CAS
Maj	A.	Alexander	British Army Staff College
Maj	N.D.	Ashton	CFOCS
Maj	R.F.J.	Berge	RSS Prairie
Maj	K.R.	Black	DCDS
Maj	D.L.	Bland	CFB Europe
Maj	R.H.	Caldwell	CAS
Maj	J.A.	Dalton	FMCHQ
Maj	E.R.	Day	DCDS
Maj	H.E.	Decoste	UNFICYP
Maj	L.G.	Del Villano	RSS Atlantic
Maj	B.R.	Dixon	DCDS
Maj	R.E.	Duchemin	CFCSC
Maj	R.M.	Elrick	MILAREA Vancouver
Maj	D.E.	Green	CFSS
Maj	L.O.	Klein	FMCHQ
Maj	E.C.H.	Latham	CAS
Maj	A.G.	Lawrence	UNMOGIP
Maj	A.	MacLean	ADM (PER)/CPCSA
Maj	G.R.	MacLean	CFCSC
Maj	W.A.	Methven	FORSCOM HQ
Maj	C.A.	Sangster	DCDS
Maj	K.R.T.	Seeley	CAS
Maj	W.H.	Smith	MARCOMHQ Halifax
Maj	D.C.	Summers	FMCHQ
Maj	E.J.	Wesson	CFLO ESTAB USA
Capt	W.S.	Andrews	CAS
Capt	H.L.	Ayerst	CFB Borden

Capt	W.R.	Blair	FMCHQ
Capt	J.B.	Boileau	HQ 4 CMBG
Capt	E.P.	Carey	RSS Central
Capt	R.F.	Carruthers	FMCHQ
Capt	D.L.	Craig	HQ 4 CMBG
Capt	J.L.	Crosby	CAS
Capt	P.A.	Cunningham	FMCHQ
Capt	C.W.	Drummond	ADM (PER)/CPCSA
Capt	J.R.	Fournier	CAS
Capt	W.J.	Fulton	CAS
Capt	J.C.S.	Gowans	CFSME
Capt	A.K.	Hamilton	CAS
Capt	B.E.	Hook	CAS
Capt	R.E.	Hook	CAS
Capt	B.R.	McCullough	RSS Prairie
Capt	J.R.	McKenzie	FMCHQ
Capt	R.S.	Millar	RMC
Capt	B.	Moore	CLFCSC
Capt	E.R.	Moore	CFB Borden
Capt	G.C.	Moore	CFRC Winnipeg
Capt	G.L.	Snagster	HQ CFB Europe
Capt	J.R.	Shaftoe	ADM (PER)/CPCSA
Capt	M.J.	Tanguay	CDLS (W)
Capt	T.J.	Tanguay	RAC Centre
Capt	J.	Thomson	CFSIT
Capt	K.L.	Thornton	CAS
Capt	C.H.	Watson	RAC Centre
Capt	G.W.	Wollard	DRES
Lt	M.A.	Johnston	CAS
CWO	D.A.	Beattie	SECLIST Suffield
CWO	E.A.	Brown	CFB Borden
CWO	H.S.	Graham	RSS Central
CWO	W.L.	Prouse	CAS
CWO	C.W.	Yeomans	CFB Gagetown
MWO	R.	Allt	RSS Central
MWO	J.	Cluett	RSS Prairie
MWO	G.H.	Levesque	CFB Kingston
MWO	A.L.	MacAdams	CAS
MWO	D.F.	Murrin	CAS
MWO	S.L.	Patterson	CFNBCS
MWO	H.C.	Sampson	CAS
MWO	R.G.	Thody	444 Tac Hel Sqn
MWO	D.G.	Thompson	CLFCSC
A/MWO	K.H.	Kramell	RSS Eastern

WO	R.E.	Conrad	CAS
WO	J.E.	Crombie	RSS Atlantic
WO	R.S.	Farquharson	RSS Central
WO	L.M.	Grant	CAS
WO	I.A.	Hansen	CFNBCS
WO	H.W.	Hutchinson	CAS
WO	L.J.	Koelbl	CAS
WO	L.J.	Lafontaine	CFOCS
WO	E.W.	Landry	CFTSHQ DET
WO	R.L.	Lang	RSS Prairie
WO	C.W.	Oakley	CAS
WO	T.S.	Rutledge	CAS
WO	W.C.	Rutledge	427 Tac Hel Sqn
WO	R.H.	Santer	CAS
WO	E.G.	Schut	CFJLS Borden
WO	R.B.	Skippen	CLFCSC
WO	E.J.	Smith	HQ CENTAG
WO	H.R.	Sutton	444 Tac Hel Sqn
WO	T.M.	Swyers	CAS
WO	T.E.	Urbanowski	CAS
WO	C.E.	Williamson	RSS Prairie
WO	M.R.	Alcock	CAS
Sgt	W.A.	Battley	CAS
Sgt	S.W.	Bernard	CFRS Cornwallis
Sgt	C.E.	Brown	CAS
Sgt	R.B.	Brownridge	CAS
Sgt	L.T.	Burgess	CAS
Sgt	D.J.	Burke	RSS Atlantic
Sgt	R.D.	Gill	444 Tac Hel Sqn
Sgt	R.D.	Good	RSS Atlantic
Sgt	R.J.	Hourihan	CAS
Sgt	T.E.	Johnson	SECLIST Shilo
Sgt	J.H.	Kelly	403 HEL OTS
Sgt	K.W.	McAllister	RSS Central
Sgt	J.S.	McNeil	CAS
Sgt	F.	Scaletta	RSS Prairie
Sgt	R.F.	Vance	CAS
Sgt	R.W.	Ward	CFRS Cornwallis
Sgt	E.K.	Welch	CAS
Sgt	M.R.	Morash	CFRS Cornwallis
MCpl	F.K.	Beebe	CFRS Cornwallis
MCpl	B.J.	Bergen	NDHQ/AU
MCpl	D.H.	Bishop	CFB Chatam
MCpl	R.R.	Boutilier	CAS
MCpl	R.M.	Chisholm	CAS
MCpl	R.S.	Dort	CFB Comox
MCpl	C.F.	Draper	CAS

MCpl	J.J.	Fluet	CAS
MCpl	L.	Grandy	CAS
MCpl	K.R.	Jacobs	CFRS Cornwallis
MCpl	B.D.	Justason	CAS
MCpl	K.H.	Kershaw	CFB Europe
MCpl	S.B.	Lockyer	CAS
MCpl	J.D.	Millard	CAS
MCpl	W.A.	Moore	CAS
MCpl	J.G.	Nemeth	CFRS Cornwallis
MCpl	R.J.	Rector	444 Tac Hel Sqn
MCpl	M.W.	Sullivan	CFRS Cornwallis
MCpl	G.G.	Tibbo	CFRS Cornwallis
MCpl	L.D.	Vickers	CFJLS Borden
MCpl	A.	Young	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	N.L.	Andrew	RSS Prairie
Cpl	A.D.	Barr	CAS
Cpl	L.J.	Bastarache	CAS
Cpl	L.T.	Bluetchen	CAS
Cpl	L.W.	Brown	CFB Comox
Cpl	H.A.	Campbell	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	J.E.	Carroll	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	J.E.	Dery	CFB Europe
Cpl	J.J.	Doiron	CAS
Cpl	R.A.	Douthwaite	LETE/NDHQ
Cpl	L.J.	Forbes	CAS
Cpl	A.A.	Gallant	CAS
Cpl	E.J.	Garnier	CAS
Cpl	E.G.	Johnston	CAS
Cpl	J.L.	Labelle	CAS
Cpl	M.T.	Lambe	CAS
Cpl	D.W.	Lantz	CFB Comox
Cpl	D.H.	Lavender	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	D.A.	MacRury	CFB Calgary
Cpl	B.F.	Martin	CAS
Cpl	R.B.	Marchioni	CAS
Cpl	R.B.	McDonell	SECLIST Suffield
Cpl	R.N.	McPherson	CAS
Cpl	L.L.	Murphy	CAS
Cpl	N.L.	Raymond	RSS Atlantic
Cpl	J.G.	Roberts	RSS Central
Cpl	B.G.	Stewart	CAS
Cpl	G.	Tetreault	RSS Estern
Cpl	J.G.	Thibault	724 Comm Sqn
Cpl	E.	Tobin	CAS
Cpl	F.T.	Valley	CAS
Cpl	D.C.	Votour	CAS
Cpl	R.T.	White	SECLIST Suffield
Cpl	L.G.	Zinck	CAS

IN MEMORY

DRURY

Scion of an old Sherbrooke, Que. family, the late LCol M.H.A. Drury, OBE, CD, was buried at Oakville, Ont. on 13 January 1977, in his 81st year.

A member of the Permanent Force for 32 years, Colonel Drury after attending Bishop's College School at Lennoxville and the Royal Military College at Kingston, served with the Royal Canadian Dragoons in France and Belgium in World War I and between the wars, earning the nickname «Boy» Drury.

He was Assistant Adjutant and Quarter Master General of Canada's largest Military District, No. 2, Toronto, during the whole of World War II.

He then served for 22 years as Commandant, Toronto and Region, Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, and retired in 1968.

Representing the Army, the Corps of Commissionaires, and the Royal Military Institute of which Colonel Drury was a Life Member, pallbearers at the funeral were: LGen H.D. Graham, CC, CVO, CBE, DSO, ED, CD, QC, former Chief of the General Staff; MGen H.A. Sparling, CBE, DSO, CD, former General Officer Commanding, Central Command; LCol R.Boyd Somerville, DSO, Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissionaires; and three serving officers of the Corps: Colonel J.F. Thrasher, Commandant; Capt A.J. Pulford and Capt C.W.E. Carter.

Colonel Drury, born in Sherbrooke in 1896, was the son of Major Hazen Drury, an engineer with many years' experience in Chile and Mexico, and grandson of Dr. F.J. Austin, a well known physician who won a medal serving with the 53rd Sherbrooke Battalion of Infantry as Surgeon Major in the Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870.

A Mason of the Sherbrooke Lodge, Colonel Drury was recently presented with a jewel representing 50 years of membership. He is survived by his wife, Susan.

